

Message

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/4/2018 6:34:07 PM  
**To:** Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: ABC News - EPA under investigation for violating anti-lobbying rule: Union official, 5/2/18

Yes, please

---

**From:** Grantham, Nancy  
**Sent:** Friday, May 4, 2018 1:47 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: ABC News - EPA under investigation for violating anti-lobbying rule: Union official, 5/2/18

Liz and John,

We are getting press inquiries on this – do you want me to discuss with Kevin Minoli – OGC about it? Thanks ng

**Nancy Grantham**  
**Office of Public Affairs**  
**US Environmental Protection Agency**  
**202-564-6879 (desk)**  
**202-253-7056 (mobile)**

---

**From:** Orquina, Jessica  
**Sent:** Friday, May 04, 2018 11:09 AM  
**To:** Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FYI: ABC News - EPA under investigation for violating anti-lobbying rule: Union official, 5/2/18

Hi Nancy,

Here's the link to the tweet in question: <https://twitter.com/EPA/status/984778229356605443>

Here's the text of the tweet:

The Senate does its duty: Andrew Wheeler confirmed by Senate as deputy administrator of @EPA. The Democrats couldn't block the confirmation of environmental policy expert and former EPA staffer under both a Republican and a Democrat president. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-senate-confirms-andrew-wheeler-serve-deputy-epa-administrator>

While the tweet mentions democrats and republicans, it does not discuss candidates up for election. It also was posted after the deputy administrator was confirmed, so it was not attempting to interfere to impact a congressional action or vote.

Jess

Jessica Ann Orquina, Director  
Office of Web Communications  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Email: [orquina.jessica@epa.gov](mailto:orquina.jessica@epa.gov)  
Office: 202-564-0446

---

**From:** Keklak, Ariel

**Sent:** Thursday, May 03, 2018 11:02 AM

**To:** AO OPA Individual News Clips <AO\_OPA\_Ind\_News\_Clips@epa.gov>

**Subject:** ABC News - EPA under investigation for violating anti-lobbying rule: Union official, 5/2/18

**ABC News**

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/epa-investigation-violating-anti-lobbying-rule-union-official/story?id=54891588>

**EPA under investigation for violating anti-lobbying rule: Union official**

By Stephanie Ebbs, 5/2/18, 6:42 PM

A federal government watchdog is investigating whether the Environmental Protection Agency broke an anti-lobbying law when it tweeted about Democratic efforts to block Senate confirmation of a nominee for a top agency post.

On April 13, the EPA tweeted from its official account about the confirmation of the agency's deputy administrator Andrew Wheeler. The tweet said "The Democrats couldn't block the confirmation of environmental policy expert and former EPA staffer under both a Republican and a Democrat president."

The Office of Special Counsel, a federal agency that investigates whistleblower and other complaints, is looking into whether the tweet violated the Hatch Act. That law says that government employees cannot engage in political or partisan activity while they are at work and specifically says that federal agencies' social media accounts must be politically neutral.

A union official filed a complaint about the tweet and shared an email with ABC News that shows the Office of Special Counsel has assigned someone to investigate the complaint. A spokesman for the Office of Special Counsel confirmed that they received the complaint but said they do not confirm or deny an open investigation.

An EPA spokesman said in a statement that the agency is not aware of an investigation related to the tweet.

"EPA employees strive to comply with all applicable statutory requirements, including the Hatch Act," EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said in the statement.

The email was first reported in the Washington Post.

The EPA has faced questions over its social media accounts before. In 2015 the Government Accountability Office found that the agency violated a different anti-lobbying and anti-propaganda law by using social media platforms to promote the Waters of the United States rule.

That GAO ruling said that the EPA's social media campaign promoted a message on social media that did not identify the EPA as the source and asked people to contact Congress in opposition to pending legislation.

The Hatch Act has also been a problem in other parts of the administration. White House senior counselor Kellyanne Conway was found to have violated the provision when she made an implied endorsement of Senate candidate Roy Moore and advocated for the defeat of his opponent Doug Jones in interviews on Fox News.

The Office of Special Counsel has cited the White House social media director, secretary of Health and Human Services, and commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission for violating the Hatch Act.

Ariel Keklak

US EPA Office of Internal Communications Intern



Message

---

**From:** Eilperin, Juliet [Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]  
**Sent:** 3/18/2018 3:36:56 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Graham, Amy [graham.amy@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: following up

Dear Liz,

I understand your point. But just to be clear, it is not implying that either the administrator or the president want to eliminate all curbs on fossil fuel production, but that they are interested in lifting some of the curbs on this kind of production. I think that's how most readers read it, but I will keep this in mind for future coverage. It is important to be precise with word choices, just to ensure that we are conveying the facts accurately.

Also, while we don't often change language between online and print stories, it always helps to raise concerns like this during the day if a story posts early, so I can talk it over with our editors and see if any adjustments are needed.

Again, thanks to you and your team for your help on what was a very tight turnaround.

Best,  
Juliet

On Jun 3, 2017, at 1:19 PM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Julia. I appreciate you sending this along, but would take exception to the point about the statement on page A13, "The administrator's own agenda – to reverse federal policies that curb domestic fossil fuel exploration." I know we went back and forth on the phone a little, so I want to explain that the statement I sent you was to hopefully clarify this assumption. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is committed to the role of the Agency. President Trump is committed to the role of the Agency. We are not disregarding it; we are restoring it. In that regard, EPA should administer the law, as Congress intended, to protect human health and the environment.

As I tried to communicate in my statement, EPA is reviewing regulations to ensure they are sensible and necessary to protect human health and the environment, while ensuring our economy is equipped to take advantage of the pro-growth policies of the President. Thanks –  
Liz

---

**From:** Eilperin, Juliet [mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: following up

And the story is up now: <http://wapo.st/2rjUvRS>[wapo.st]

Best, Juliet



**From:** Bowman, Liz [mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 02, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** Eilperin, Juliet <Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>  
**Cc:** Graham, Amy <graham.amy@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: following up

Hey Juliet – Ryan and I talked and we are comfortable sending you the following details on the regulations. This is only for background, not to be quoted or attributed. I think this is easier than me talking you through this on phone. Please note, the number in the EO on energy independence should be 3, not 4, I typed it incorrectly last night. Please let me know if you have questions. Thank you – Liz Bowman, 202-309-3416

- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**TSCA Implementation:** Clearing the backlog of new chemicals that were waiting for approval from EPA. The Agency has split by half the backlog of new chemical submissions being reviewed under the Toxic Substances Control Act, bringing the number of these cases down from roughly 300 to 150 with plans to fully eliminate the backlog by the end of July. We also are on track to meet the deadlines outlined in the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, with regard to EPA's significant rules on prioritizing chemicals that need to be reviewed for safety, and how we will conduct safety risk evaluations being released in late June.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**New Source Performance Standards:** Reviewing the New Source Performance Standards for coal-fired power plants, which prevents companies from building new plants.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Oil and Gas Methane NSPS:** EPA announced a decision to reconsider the Oil and Gas Methane New Source Performance Standards for new and modified sources, delaying a costly compliance requirement.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**CPP:** Reviewing the so-called Clean Power Plan that threatens over 125,000 U.S. jobs.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Ozone Standard:** Requested delay of oral arguments on the ozone standard.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**ELG Rule:** EPA announced the agency's decision to review and reconsider the final rule that amends the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for the steam electric power generating category under the Clean Water Act (ELG Rule), which costs an estimated \$480 million annually.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR Rule):** EPA expects provide draft guidance to the states[epa.gov] on the CCR rule at the end of the month and begin acting on state permit applications this year.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Energy Independence EO:** Following the President's Energy Independence Executive Order, Administrator Pruitt signed three notices to review and, if appropriate, to revise or rescind major, economically significant, burdensome rules the last Administration issued.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**CAFE Standards:** EPA rescinded an evaluation of greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for model year 2022-2025 vehicles, and is working with DOT to conduct a collaborative and robust review of the standards. According to the Auto Alliance, "no agency has ever set emission limits so far into the future," and this puts 1.1 million jobs at risk and cost the industry \$200 billion by 2025 to comply.

- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**WOTUS:** EPA is restoring states' important role in the regulation of water by reviewing the "Waters of the U.S." or WOTUS.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Flint, Michigan:** The Agency is allocating funds for vital environmental projects that go directly to the health of our citizens, such as providing \$100 million to upgrade drinking water infrastructure in Flint, Michigan.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Methane ICR:** EPA is telling businesses they no longer have this additional bureaucratic burden, with the cost to American businesses attempting to comply exceeding \$42 million.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Regulatory Reform:** Launched the EPA Regulatory Reform Task Force to undergo extensive reviews of the misaligned regulatory actions from the past administration.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Risk Management Rule (RMP Rule):** EPA delayed the RMP rule to make sure that any additional regulations actually make chemical facilities safer, without duplicating regulations or opening our country up to dangerous national security threats. EPA estimates the RMP rule to cost \$131.8 million annually, or \$1.3 billion over ten years.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Superfund Sites:** We are getting real results at cleaning up Superfund sites, including: East Chicago (IN), West Oakland (CA) and Pompton Lake (NJ). Administrator Pruitt is the first EPA Administrator to visit East Chicago site.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Superfund Plan:** We announced new plans to get better results at Superfunds, including a new task force and a new authority for the Administrator to decide remedies that cost over \$50 million.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Water Infrastructure:** Opened the application process for EPA's WIFIA program; a low-risk loan for businesses that will provide \$1 billion in credit to finance over \$2 billion in water infrastructure investments.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**EPA Originalism:** EPA Administrator Pruitt launched a "Back-to-Basics" Agenda, touring a Pennsylvania coal mine, a Missouri power plant, and visiting a contaminated "Superfund" site in E. Chicago, to discuss how EPA is refocusing the agency on its core mission of protecting the environment through sensible regulations developed in cooperation with state, local and tribal partners.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**MATS Rule:** EPA is reviewing the rule to determine whether it complies with our statutory mandate, and abides by sound regulatory principles.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Clean Air Act/SSM SIP:** Asked the court to postpone oral arguments over an Obama-era rule making 36 states rework their Clean Air Act compliance plans.
- ✓ <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->**Pebble Mine:** EPA is allowing Pebble Mine to re-apply for a permit for mining and providing a fair opportunity for the company to apply.

---

**From:** Eilperin, Juliet [<mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, June 2, 2017 7:31 AM

**To:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: following up

Sure, just call my cell, 202-302-3663.

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [<mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 02, 2017 7:17 AM  
**To:** Eilperin, Juliet <[Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com](mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com)>  
**Cc:** Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: following up

I can walk you through them over the phone after my breakfast meeting ...like 9:30?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 2, 2017, at 6:45 AM, Eilperin, Juliet <[Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com](mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com)> wrote:

Thanks, and do you happen to have a list of the more than two dozen significant regulatory actions? I ask because we've tracked a lot of them, obviously, but we don't have a comprehensive list. If it helps, I could send the ones I know offhand (it's about a dozen) and then you could mention the others. Thanks.

On Jun 2, 2017, at 6:27 AM, Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

Juliet -- I have an updated list of some of the meetings below:

27 governors calls/meetings, 3+ environment commissioners, 6 ag commissioners, 3+ farm bureaus, 14+ mayors

from my iPhone

On Jun 1, 2017, at 11:04 PM, Eilperin, Juliet <[Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com](mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com)> wrote:

Dear Liz,  
This is helpful, thanks. I'm just finishing a draft of the story now, so I will pop in this quote. Some of what you have below is already included in the piece, but I will look through whether there's more to weave in, and once I get some feedback from my editor (which should be first thing in the morning) I will check in once more.  
Best, Juliet

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [<mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 01, 2017 11:01 PM  
**To:** Eilperin, Juliet <[Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com](mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com)>  
**Cc:** Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Ferguson, Lincoln <[ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov](mailto:ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov)>; Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: following up

Hi Juliet – I am sorry for the late response, and I am not entirely sure this is what you are looking for, but I am going to provide you with some information that you can use on background, and a

short quote you can use for the record, attributable to me. We can talk more tomorrow, but hopefully this is somewhat helpful. Thanks – Liz

**“Administrator Pruitt is implementing President Trump’s executive orders to protect the environment, save manufacturing jobs and promote American energy independence.” - Liz Bowman, EPA spokesperson**

Additional information for background:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Since being sworn in, EPA Administrator Pruitt has consulted with at least 22 bipartisan governors, 10 bipartisan Members of Congress, three foreign leaders, four state agriculture departments and over a dozen bipartisan organizations.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->In his first 100 days, Administrator Pruitt has spearheaded nearly two dozen significant regulatory reform actions
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Following the President’s Energy Independence EO, Administrator Pruitt signed four notices to review and, if appropriate, to revise or rescind major, economically significant, burdensome rules the last Administration issued. This includes the so-called Clean Power Plan that threatens 400,000 U.S. jobs.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA announced the agency’s decision to review and reconsider the final rule that amends the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for the steam electric power generating category under the Clean Water Act (ELG Rule), which costs an estimated \$480 million annually.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA is restoring states’ important role in the regulation of water by reviewing the “Waters of the U.S.” or WOTUS.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Launched the EPA Regulatory Reform Task Force to undergo extensive reviews of the misaligned regulatory actions from the past administration.

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->We are getting real results at cleaning up Superfund sites, including: East Chicago (IN), West Oakland (CA) and Pompton Lake (NJ).
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->EPA opened the application process for EPA's WIFIA program; a low-risk loan for businesses that will provide \$1 billion in credit to finance over \$2 billion in water infrastructure investments.

---

**From:** Eilperin, Juliet

[mailto:Juliet.Eilperin@washpost.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 1, 2017 7:40 PM

**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>

**Subject:** following up

Dear Liz,

My apologies for the somewhat hectic nature of our conversation, I know you had a very busy day.

As we discussed, we are writing about how the Administrator is having an impact on policy in the short time he's been in office. Much of this will be based on the public record, given his many policy announcements, as well as a couple of public comments. In terms of how we are describing this, part of this is because so much of what EPA did under Obama was through executive action, rather than legislation, and because the EPA agenda meshes closely with what Trump pledged to do on the campaign. But, as I mentioned, people inside and outside the administration have also noted that Pruitt's approach has contributed to the impact he's had. For example, our main story has a quote from a White House official referring to Pruitt and a couple of other opponents of the Paris accord by saying "They were presenting facts and figures... They were really important. That was the evidentiary case." That's the sort of description I was seeking for this story.

Even if it's under a tight deadline, I think it makes sense to try to capture--in more granular detail--how the Administrator has operated. I don't know what details you can provide--in the past we have often been able to get descriptions of how many interactions a Cabinet member has had with a president in a given period of time, for example, but I understand that you don't seem to have that information at hand. You seemed to be concerned that the story would depict the discussions about Paris as less than deliberative; I don't think that's true, the consensus on all sides is that it was

deliberative. But, as I've mentioned, this story is broader than just Paris.

I hope that helps clarify things, and let me know if you either want to try to talk later tonight, or perhaps continue the conversation via email.

Best, Juliet

Juliet Eilperin  
Senior National Affairs Correspondent  
Washington Post  
[Juliet.eilperin@washpost.com](mailto:Juliet.eilperin@washpost.com)  
(O) 202-334-7774  
(C) 202-302-3663  
@eilperin

Message

---

**From:** Gunasekara, Mandy [Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/18/2018 9:46:33 PM  
**To:** Darwin, Henry [darwin.henry@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Wehrum, Bill [Wehrum.Bill@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: In bid to speed up EPA, Pruitt takes on entrenched air pollution system - Preview

Good from my end too

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 18, 2018, at 10:13 AM, Darwin, Henry <darwin.henry@epa.gov> wrote:

I have no objections.

Thanks

Henry

---

**From:** Block, Molly  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:10 AM  
**To:** Gunasekara, Mandy <Gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>; Wehrum, Bill <Wehrum.Bill@epa.gov>; Darwin, Henry <darwin.henry@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: In bid to speed up EPA, Pruitt takes on entrenched air pollution system - Preview

Mandy, Bill and Henry,

Are we good to push this out? Do you have any objections to the article? Thanks!

---

**From:** EPA Press Office [mailto:press=epa.gov@cmail19.com] **On Behalf Of** EPA Press Office  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:06 AM  
**To:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** In bid to speed up EPA, Pruitt takes on entrenched air pollution system - Preview

No images? [Click here](#)

---

## Houston Chronicle

---

### **In Bid to Speed Up EPA, Pruitt Takes on Entrenched Air Pollution System**

James Osborne

January 18, 2018

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/In-bid-to-speed-up-EPA-Pruitt-takes-on-12506953.php>

Lining the 50-mile long Houston Ship Channel is a network of chemical plants, oil refineries and other industrial facilities so vast that the city's business leaders like to refer to it as the "petrochemical capital of the world."



But the area also has some of the some the worst air quality in the country, which has helped slow the development of new industrial projects. Companies seeking to build or expand plants must navigate a laborious permitting process that routinely requires them to spend 18 months dickering with state environmental agencies to gain permits needed to emit more pollution into the atmosphere.

Now, inside the Environmental Protection Agency, officials are working to find a way to speed and overhaul that process. With the backing of President Donald Trump, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has told staff that the agency's air permitting process is too convoluted. He set a goal of processing applications in no more than six months.

That would be a dramatic departure from established practices. Under the current system, which dates back to 1963 when Congress passed the Clean Air Act, applicants must go through multiple reviews by state officials operating under tomes of rules and regulations promulgated by the EPA. The nationwide average wait time for a major air permit - called New Source Review - was 14 months for a coal or gas-fired power plant or oil refinery between 2002 and 2014, according to an Indiana University study.

"That's where we've been for a long time," said Toby Hanna, a consultant with Environmental Resources Management, a London firm that advises companies on the EPA's air permitting process. "Some of the folks at EPA now were there in the [George W.] Bush administration trying to fix these problems."

'Second guessing'

Industries and their lobbyists have complained for years that the slow permitting times make the United States a less desirable place to locate manufacturing. In the months ahead, a task force assembled by Pruitt will review EPA protocols, with the goal of implementing new procedures before the end of the year.

In at least one case, Pruitt is not waiting. Under former president Barack Obama, EPA officials would frequently intercede before air permits were issued to double check the work of companies and state officials. But Pruitt described those reviews as "second guessing" in a memo to EPA regional administrators last month and said he planned to do away with the practice.

EPA officials insist that their goal is to streamline the permitting process , not relax air quality regulations. But environmentalists are skeptical, speculating that Pruitt's ultimate plan is to allow companies to pollute more.

"These permits are super technical," said Pat Gallagher, legal director of the Sierra Club. "There's all sorts of process and engineering issues that come up and it's not like you can just jam it through."

Pruitt and President Donald Trump have moved to rollback a long list of environmental rules, including Obama's plan to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and new safety standards implemented after the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in 2010.

In his memo last month, Pruitt said he also would review a long-standing policy under which high polluting facilities that operate under strict regulation remain subject to those tougher standards even when emissions are significantly reduced. Bill Wehrum, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, described the policy as nonsensical and another example of a unnecessary layer of regulation that hurts economic growth.

"Can we be better and more efficient at what we do? Yeah. " said Wehrum, an agency veteran from the George W. Bush administration. "Can the permittee be more efficient? In a lot of cases, yeah."

#### Lean regulation

At EPA headquarters in downtown Washington, one of the officials charged with speeding up the permitting process is Henry Darwin, the agency's chief of operations.

As the head of Arizona's environmental agency, Darwin managed to cut wait times for environmental permits by more than 60 percent. He credits that time savings to the implementation of a management technique known as "lean manufacturing," which has its origins in the efficiency protocols established by the Japanese auto manufacturer Toyota following World War II. Under the methodology, bureaucratic systems are analyzed for wasteful, unnecessary activities, which are then eliminated.

"The fact of the matter is most processes that have not gone through a process improvement event, 80 to 90 percent of that time the process takes is spent sitting without any activity," he explained. "We're just trying to eliminate periods of time where there's no work being performed."

But eliminating those wasted moments might not be so easy. Environmental consultants, hired by industrial companies to help navigate the permitting process, said one of the major causes in permitting delays is the lack of manpower at state environmental agencies due to budget cuts.

"All the states need more staff," said Pat Patrick, vice president at the Houston environmental consulting firm Air Consulting, Environmental, & Safety. "Right now, you submit your application and have to wait your turn until it gets to the top of the pile. We tell our clients that it's likely to be three months before you hear anything substantive from the state."

In Texas, that has translated into lengthy waits for permits as companies have rushed to build petrochemical projects up and down the Gulf Coast, to take advantage of cheap natural gas flowing from the shale drilling boom.

French oil giant Total waited 20 months for an air permit for its new ethane cracker in Port Arthur. It took the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality more than 18 months to issue air permits for LyondellBassel's new \$2.4 billion chemical plant near the ship channel.

And that is nothing compared to the wait times in other states.

"Texas is pretty fast," said Jeff Holmstead, an energy attorney with the Washington law firm Bracewell. "They say here are the requirements, we're going to make the decision quickly."

#### Further complications

Considering the long wait times in industry-friendly states like Texas, the question for some environmental consultants and lawyers is how much can EPA really do to speed things up, especially in states like California and New York, which have more extensive regulations.

Others worry that Trump administration's effort to move industry through the permitting process faster could lead to court challenges brought by environmental advocates, throwing the system into turmoil and creating even longer delays..

"The challenge is if EPA goes too far, there could be a backlash with the states trying to fill voids," Hanna said. "We want to make the turn, but if we're trying to turn too quickly, our necks are going to snap."

[To Read the Full Story Click Here](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

<!--[if !vml]--><image002.png><!--[endif]-->



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20004

[Unsubscribe](#)

Message

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/28/2018 1:42:18 PM  
**To:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]; Press [Press@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Sierra Club Launches TV Ad Calling for Trump to "Boot Pruitt"

Here you are Kevin,

**"This is old news as environmental groups have been recycling these baseless attacks since the day Scott Pruitt was nominated. Administrator Pruitt is proud to advance President Trump's agenda on regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2018 9:30 AM  
**To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sierra Club Launches TV Ad Calling for Trump to "Boot Pruitt"

Hey guys,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.

I'm working on a story about environmental groups launching a campaign to force Administrator Pruitt from office (please see below). Does EPA have any reaction to this?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

-Kevin

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Lauren Lantry <lauren.lantry@sierraclub.org>  
**Date:** March 28, 2018 at 8:34:39 AM EDT  
**To:** <kbogardus@eenews.net>  
**Subject:** Sierra Club Launches TV Ad Calling for Trump to "Boot Pruitt"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Contact: Lauren Lantry, [lauren.lantry@sierraclub.org](mailto:lauren.lantry@sierraclub.org)

[View as webpage](#)

**Sierra Club Launches TV Ad Calling for Trump to “Boot Pruitt”**  
*Ad Runs Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday on Fox and Friends and Morning Joe*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Today, the Sierra Club began airing a TV ad on Fox and Friends and Morning Joe calling for Trump to fire Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt. The ads will air on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week. The ad is part of the Boot Pruitt campaign, a coordinated effort among several groups aimed at forcing Pruitt from office.





*In response, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune released the following statement:*

"Every audience deserves to hear what Scott Pruitt is doing to our air, our water, and our health -- even Donald Trump. Pruitt is endangering families and wasting taxpayer dollars. That would be enough to get him fired twice in any normal administration. But insulting Trump? We don't think that's something even he can ignore. There's no question that it's past time to boot Pruitt."

###

About the Sierra Club

*The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).*

 FIND US ON FACEBOOK  ACTION CENTER  GET THE INSIDER  
 FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Sierra Club | 2101 Webster St., Suite 1300 Oakland, CA 94612  
To subscribe, email [media.assistant@sierraclub.org](mailto:media.assistant@sierraclub.org)  
[www.sierraclub.org/pressroom](http://www.sierraclub.org/pressroom) | [sierra.news@sierraclub.org](mailto:sierra.news@sierraclub.org)



If you would rather not receive future communications from Sierra Club, let us know by clicking [here](#).  
Sierra Club, 2101 Webster St. Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612 United States

Message

---

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/27/2018 8:43:51 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Sending this to Tim.

One update in red.

**"This is old news as environmental groups have been recycling these baseless attacks since the day Scott Pruitt was nominated. Administrator Pruitt is proud to advance President Trump's agenda on regulatory certainty and environmental stewardship."**

---

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 4:38 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Sending this to Tim.

(b) (5)

**BACKGROUND ...**

<https://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2016/12/sierra-club-scott-pruitt-unfit-serve-epa-administrator>

**From:** Timothy Cama [mailto:tcama@thehill.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 4:27 PM  
**To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Anti-Pruitt campaign

Hi folks-

A handful of environmental groups is launching a campaign soon to try to get Pruitt to either resign or be fired, dubbed "Boot Pruitt."

Their main arguments are the changes or rollbacks he's made to the Clean Power Plan, Clean Water Rule, methane rule, Paris agreement and his travel costs.

Would you like to comment?

Thanks.

--

Timothy Cama, Staff writer



The Hill

(202) 695-6245

Secure: [timothy.cama@protonmail.com](mailto:timothy.cama@protonmail.com)

Message

---

**From:** Fugh, Justina [Fugh.Justina@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/27/2018 8:38:14 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: This morning  
**Attachments:** Departing EPA for John Konkus - sched C.docx; STOCK\_Act\_Negotiations\_Form.pdf

Hi John,

I understand that, on Friday, March 30, you will be interviewing for a position with AECOM. Because my husband is a salaried engineer at the same company who owns a *de minimis* amount of company stock, I told you that I needed to first obtain a determination from an OGC ethics official before providing you with any advice related to this company. I have since been cleared by Jennie Keith of OGC/Ethics to provide you with advice.

Yes, you may go on the interview, but remember that you must take leave to go on the interview or otherwise be in a nonwork status (e.g., a compressed day off). You cannot share any nonpublic EPA information.

Because you are seeking employment with AECOM, you cannot now interact with the company at all as part of your EPA duties. In addition, you should complete the attached pdf form to notify me when you commence negotiating for employment with AECOM or any other potential employer. At that point, you cannot work on any particular matter that involves AECOM either as a specific party or as a member of a class. I've attached a document that goes over the seeking and post employment rules for you.

Should you decide to leave EPA, then we can talk further about your post employment obligations, which will include filing a termination financial disclosure report.

Best,  
Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308 North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004 for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772

---

**From:** Konkus, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 10:20 AM  
**To:** Fugh, Justina <Fugh.Justina@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** This morning

Can I pop up to see you this morning on a question I have? Thanks!

John Konkus  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Mobile: (202) 365-9250

**From:** Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/25/2018 11:58:51 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]; Epp, Timothy [Epp.Timothy@epa.gov]; Fonseca, Silvina [Fonseca.Silvina@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Flint clips, January 24, 2018

**Nancy Grantham**  
**Office of Public Affairs**  
**US Environmental Protection Agency**  
**202-564-6879 (desk)**  
**202-253-7056 (mobile)**

Flint Clips  
US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs  
Flint clips, January 24, 2018

**Mlive** Two years after Flint water crisis, EPA ramps up for 'war on lead'

**Detroit Free Press** Gov. Rick Snyder's legacy on Flint, beyond: He's made friends, foes  
on controversial moves

[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2018/01/two\\_years\\_emergency\\_declared\\_i.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2018/01/two_years_emergency_declared_i.html)

## Two years after Flint water crisis, EPA ramps up for 'war on lead'

Updated Jan 23, 10:23 AM; Posted Jan 23, 10:22 AM

**By Ron Fonger**

rfonger1@mlive.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Two years after the Flint water crisis was recognized as a federal emergency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's top executive is vowing a renewed push to revise the Lead and Copper Rule, according to a published report.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has begun what's described as an effort to "eradicate" lead in drinking water by pushing for long-discussed changes in the federal LCR, the Washington Examiner reported Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Gov. Rick Snyder has been among the most vocal critics of the regulation, which went into effect in 1991 and which was last revised in 2007.

Although 15 current and former employees from the city of Flint and state of Michigan were charged with crimes tied to the water crisis, Snyder has laid some of the blame on the LCR, which he's called "dumb and dangerous."

The state Department of Environmental Quality late last year proposed changes to lead and copper regulation in Michigan, rules that would lower the action level for lead in drinking water and require the removal of all lead service lines over the next 20 years.

The federal LCR currently requires that public water systems improve corrosion control or remove lead pipes if more than 10 percent of water samples exceed 15 parts per billion of lead.

The Examiner story says Pruitt hosted a meeting Jan. 8 for state and local officials in Washington to discuss what changes are needed on a federal level.

Pruitt has criticized EPA's enforcement of existing federal water regulation previously, including what he's characterized as the agency's lack of urgency in dealing with Flint's water emergency.

Documents show Flint filed false reports about testing for lead in water

The water crisis arose after the city water system was allowed to use a new source of water without being required to treat it to make it less corrosive to lead in plumbing and pipes.

Although testing for lead and copper was done after the change in water source in April 2014, the city disregarded LCR rules requiring it to seek out homes with lead plumbing for testing.

Even with the flawed testing, lead levels spiked in Flint and the number of children with elevated blood lead levels nearly doubled after the change in the water source.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/flint-water-crisis/2018/01/21/michigan-governor-rick-snyder-legacy/1035495001/>

**Gov. Rick Snyder's legacy on Flint, beyond: He's made friends, foes on controversial moves**

Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press Published 6:00 a.m. ET Jan. 21, 2018

LANSING — On Tuesday, Republican Gov. Rick Snyder will step to a podium in the House chamber and deliver his eighth and final State of the State address.

Though Snyder has 11 more months in office, the speech is likely his last opportunity to address all Michiganders and set out his final plans and priorities as governor. Snyder's legacy will always be tied to the Flint drinking water crisis — in which state failures resulted in lead contamination of the city's water supply, a public health catastrophe and eroded faith in government — but both his supporters and detractors agree his record includes much more.

For better or worse, Snyder, 59, has put his stamp on the condition of Michigan's roads, its health care and education systems, on labor relations, the future of Michigan's auto industry, its largest city and the share of taxes paid by individuals and corporations. He's credited with confronting serious and long-standing issues — such as the Detroit financial crisis and mounting state and local unfunded pension and retiree health care liabilities — that others had kicked down the road. In a time of extreme political divisiveness, he has sought to make Michigan's political discourse more civil.

How much credit does Snyder deserve for Michigan's vastly improved economy during a period when the national economy also surged? How much blame for the Flint tragedy, which Snyder has largely attributed to mistakes by "career bureaucrats"? Both questions will be debated. What can't be disputed is the scope of change in Michigan — which continues today — under his administration.

Flash back seven years, to Jan. 19, 2011, when Snyder, a newly inaugurated political newcomer, self-described as "one tough nerd," delivered his first State of the State speech:

- Detroit was drowning in billions of dollars in debt that has since been erased, its former mayor was recently indicted on federal corruption charges, and the city's current financial renaissance and bustling downtown was impossible to foresee. Snyder moved the city into emergency management and bankruptcy before pushing for a \$195-million state contribution to shore up Detroit retiree pensions and save from creditors the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts.
- Massive cuts Snyder proposed to business taxes and a new tax on pension income — and the resulting tax shift from corporations to individuals — were not yet law. In 2011, half the state's general fund revenues came from personal income taxes and 17% came from business taxes. This year, 69% of general fund revenues come from personal income taxes and only 5.1% from business taxes, according to state fiscal agencies.
- The state's unemployment rate was 10.7% — more than double the 4.7% rate today. After 10 consecutive years of job declines, Michigan gained 88,500 jobs the year Snyder took office, and it has gained another 438,000 jobs since.
- The state's unfunded pension and retiree health care liabilities stood at \$69.5 billion. By 2016, the most recent year available, they'd been reduced to \$54.5 billion, according to the Office of Retirement Services.
- Development of self-driving cars was in its infancy. Snyder, who believes autonomous vehicles and related technology are the future of the auto industry, pushed through legislation to allow self-driving cars on Michigan roads and backed development of the American Center for Mobility, a proving ground for autonomous vehicles that opened near Ypsilanti in December.

Snyder's changes to the tax system remain controversial, and other accomplishments are often overshadowed not only by the Flint crisis, but by a Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency scandal in which about 37,000 innocent claimants were falsely accused of fraud and financially punished by a \$47-million state computer system run amok.

For some business leaders, the bigger issue is the overall direction of the state.

Charlie Owens, Michigan director for the National Federation of Independent Business, said he initially had concerns that Snyder's background as a Gateway Computers executive would cause him to favor large corporations over the small businesses he represents.

"I couldn't have been more wrong," said Owens, who said his members are benefiting from lower taxes, reduced regulations, and a right-to-work law, signed by Snyder in 2012, that makes it illegal to require employees to financially support a labor union.

He believes the fact that Snyder, a millionaire, self-funded his 2010 campaign insulated him from the influence of corporate lobbyists.

close dialog

"His legacy is going to be that he took the state at a very dark time and led it to where it is now, which in our view, is very much improved," Owens said.

**More:** Michigan Senate, House override veto, pass sales tax relief for auto trade-ins

**More:** Michigan Republicans call for deeper state tax cuts in response to Trump plan

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint, sees Snyder's legacy much differently, pointing to not just the Flint water crisis and the Unemployment Insurance Agency false fraud scandal, but problems with abuse and inadequate care at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and ongoing reports of drug smuggling and sex acts between prisoners and kitchen workers following Snyder's privatization of prison food services.

All four situations involved attempts to save money — the first by replacing an elected government in Flint with a state-appointed official instructed to cut costs, the second by replacing state workers with a computer system, and the last two by privatizing state government jobs through the hiring of private contractors.

In each case, Ananich said, the "balance sheet approach to government" advanced by Snyder, a certified public accountant, produced a cost saving that resulted in more problems than it cured, and, ultimately, higher costs.

"We've seen crisis after crisis, with plenty of warning signs for each one," he said.

The state has so far appropriated close to \$300 million to pay for bottled water and filters and address health, infrastructure and other problems in Flint. Outside legal fees for the state exceed \$20 million, with many lawsuits and criminal hearings pending. On the jobless agency scandal, the state has repaid about \$21 million to claimants, amid more lawsuits and discussions of additional settlements.

Unlike many Michigan governors, Snyder has governed throughout his two terms with both chambers of the Legislature controlled by his political party. But with a state House, in particular, much more conservative than he is, the one-party rule has produced its own divisions.

As he stood at the Capitol podium that 2011 winter night, Snyder was not expecting to sign bills in 2012 to make Michigan — once an organized labor stronghold — a right-to-work state. The divisive issue was "not on my agenda," he said, but GOP activists forced the issue after an unsuccessful 2012 ballot drive, backed by labor, to enshrine collective bargaining rights in the state Constitution.

Just as his approval of right-to-work angered the left, Snyder infuriated many on the right in 2013, when he pushed for and signed into law the expansion of Medicaid under Democratic President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, bringing government-funded health care to nearly a half million more Michigan residents.

Expansion of Obamacare isn't the only time Snyder clashed with his party's right flank. He has vetoed one bill to allow guns in schools and another to create a "Choose Life" anti-abortion license plate. Though Owens is pleased with Snyder's performance overall, he's unhappy with Snyder's repeated promise to veto a repeal of the state's "prevailing wage" law requiring union wages on government construction jobs.

Snyder has spent seven years being pushed right by the Legislature while frequently being appealed to from the left by moderates and liberals who saw him as a last-hope check on the Republican-controlled House and Senate.

Not infrequently, both sides ended up unhappy. Wednesday's override of Snyder's veto of a bill to reduce the sales tax charged when residents use a trade-in to purchase a car was the first in Michigan since 2002 — when the GOP also controlled both chambers under former Gov. John Engler.

"Sometimes he's more of a government activist, sometimes he's more of a government hands-off person," Erika King, a professor of political science at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, said of Snyder.

As a result, "I don't see him having a completely enthusiastic base that champions his every move."

Snyder's job approval rating, which hit a low of 39% in early 2016, improved to 45% in a December poll by EPIC-MRA of Lansing. But 52% still gave him a negative rating, while the other 3% were undecided or refused to say.

But Snyder deserves credit, King said, for taking a more pragmatic and less partisan approach to public policy issues. Though he hasn't always been successful, Snyder favors policies based on outcomes more than ideology and an environment in which "differences are heard and expressed in a civil tone and people reach compromise," she said.

Snyder came into government talking about working in "dog years," and his major tax changes and passage of right-to-work were all pushed through in his first two years in office.

The "dog years" mantra is now heard less frequently, mostly replaced by "relentless positive action" as Snyder grinds away at longer-term issues such as training more skilled workers to meet employers' needs. His "Marshall Plan" to develop talent and improve educational opportunities for high-tech jobs — named after the U.S. initiative to help rebuild Western Europe's economy after World War II — is to include more money for K-12 computer science teachers and a raft of other measures expected to be detailed in his Tuesday speech.

Snyder is also focused on building a new public span, the Gordie Howe International Bridge, across the Detroit River to Canada. Snyder sees the bridge as a key link in continuing and expanding Michigan-Canada trade in manufacturing and agricultural projects. It would also create thousands of construction jobs. Site preparation and land acquisition is under way, amid ongoing court challenges, with a bridge opening tentatively slated for 2022.

The governor continues to make annual trips to Asia and Europe, working on building trade relationships and investment opportunities, while working in Michigan and abroad to position Michigan as a leader in the "mobility" industry of self-driving vehicles. In 2016, he launched a "Planet M" branding campaign to highlight the state's engineering talent, history of automotive innovation, and other advantages as home to the fledgling industry.

"Michigan has always been the automotive industry leader, and as the transportation industry evolves, our state's influence will continue to shape the way the world moves," Snyder said.

Education is an area Snyder has consistently cited as a priority, but it is where his record shows repeated setbacks. He lifted the cap on the number of charter schools, but that didn't move the needle on student performance. His Education Achievement Authority, designed to improve the lowest-performing schools, became caught up in a corruption scandal and later dissolved.

Standardized test results released in August show Michigan's elementary and middle school students are slowly making gains in math and social studies, but that progress is overshadowed by declines nearly across the board in reading and writing, as well as continued struggles in science.

A report released Wednesday said the state invests too little in K-12 schools, and on higher education, even some business groups say funding under Snyder has fallen woefully short.

"During his tenure, Michigan's public schools have sunk in national ratings," said Liette Gidlow, an associate professor of history at Wayne State University.

"Higher education has become more inaccessible as state funding for some public universities remains at levels below funding levels in place when he took office."

Snyder has persisted against obstacles in pursuing certain objectives, such as the bridge project, where he negotiated an agreement under which Canada would fund the project after the Michigan Legislature refused to OK the span in the face of intense lobbying against it by Manuel (Matty) Moroun, owner of the nearby Ambassador Bridge to Windsor.

He got a \$1.2-billion road funding deal through the Legislature in 2015, after voters rejected a more ambitious plan in a referendum. The plan increased fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees and will contribute \$600 million a year in road funding from the general fund, when fully implemented in 2021. But motorists continue to complain about crumbling roads, and Michigan Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle said the roads will continue to deteriorate, just not as quickly as they would without the extra funding.

But other initiatives appeared to drop off Snyder's to-do list in the face of resistance, such as a statewide plan to reduce obesity, announced in his 2011 State of the State address, and a plan to improve campaign finance and worst-in-the-nation government ethics laws for state and local government, announced in his 2012 address.

Snyder's expressed desire to greatly scale back on picking "winners and losers" through economic development incentives aimed at specific projects, in favor of a more favorable tax and regulatory climate for all developments, also received a major rethink. Snyder got behind significant tax incentives for large employers, including massive incentive plans aimed at luring Taiwanese electronics company Foxconn to build a \$10-billion Michigan plant and online retail giant Amazon to build a second headquarters in metro Detroit. Neither effort was successful.



Joshua Sapotichne, a political science professor at Michigan State University, said Snyder deserves credit for taking on the Detroit financial crisis — something other Michigan politicians were reluctant to do.

Many Detroit residents are not yet experiencing the recovery there, but "if managed the right way, this is the early stages of a city that can be a thriving middle-class community again," Sapotichne said.

While giving Snyder credit for Detroit, Sapotichne said Snyder's legacy will never be discussed without talking about Flint, which "exposed the emergency manager policy for not being an appropriate way to respond to fiscal distress in city government," because one person with limited staff can't be expected to run a city the size of Flint and the law gives managers no power to raise ongoing revenue, but only make cuts.

In Flint on Thursday, former security guard James Milton said he's concerned that Snyder will declare victory over the Flint drinking water crisis in his address Tuesday night, since tests are now showing lead levels consistently below federal action levels.

But Milton, 59, said his trust in government has suffered, and, after having trouble obtaining a water testing kit, his tap recently showed a spike in lead, which he attributes to recent work replacing buried lead lines at other Flint homes.

Even with a filter, "I'm not drinking it," Milton said.

Message

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2018 10:34:03 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** John Konkus' outside clients  
**Attachments:** KonkusJ annual report.pdf; Konkus approval of outside activity\_unredacted.pdf

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. My apologies for the evening email.

Myself and a colleague are working on a story about John Konkus' likely outside clients, which I understand he never performed any work for while he has been an EPA official.

I won a Freedom of Information Act appeal and received a unredacted copy of John's approval of outside activity form, which lists his two likely clients as Jamestown Associates and a Florida state representative (please see attached). I have also obtained John's latest financial disclosure report (please see attached) as well as an email between John and Justina Fugh (please see below), both saying John never did any work for either client, which I will mention in my story. In addition, for your information, I will mention in my story John's firm, Saint Luke Solutions LLC, which is mentioned on John's approval of outside activity form and I will cite Florida state records

(<http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/GetDocument?aggregateId=flal-l15000061676-d7af5131-56c2-4e6b-805b-ea304b730c9e&transactionId=l15000061676-b7c819c8-fe16-466a-b64a-ff343fa177e2&formatType=PDF>).

I have a few questions for you, which are:

- Who was the Florida state representative that was one of John's likely clients?
- Does EPA have any other reaction on John's likely outside clients?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is midnight tonight but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

**Kevin Bogardus**

E&E News reporter

[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)

202-446-0401 (p)

202-247-7844 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me [@KevinBogardus](#)

---

**E&E NEWS**

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) • [www.eenews.tv](http://www.eenews.tv)

EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

P.S. – Here is the email between John and Justina Fugh:

**From:** Fugh, Justina  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:09 AM  
**To:** Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Hi John,

This note confirms our conversation earlier today. As always, I appreciate your taking the initiative to consult with me about any possible ethical issues in advance and sharing your relevant details. You're a good client!

#### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

You indicated that you intend to file your incumbent report this week, and I told you that I would review it as soon as possible. Your report will not include any income from any outside clients because, as we discussed today, you never did engage in any outside activity for any clients in CY 2017. As you will recall, you had sought approval *in advance* of any possible activity, as required by 5 CFR 2635.803 and 5 CFR 6401.103(a). I approved you for the *possibility* of outside activity, but given the demands of your EPA duties, you never took on any clients at all. What you will be reporting in your OGE 278 is that fact that you never had any clients after all, so have nothing to enter as additional income or outside positions on your financial disclosure report.

#### OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

You informed me that you simply do not have any time or inclination to consider any outside activity in the future. Thus, this note confirms that you no longer need the prior approval of outside activity. We will consider that approval to be rescinded since it's unnecessary.

As always, thanks for stopping by!  
Cheers,  
Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308 North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004 for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772

Message

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/11/2018 9:46:14 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: EPA staff FIRED

**From:** Mike Abboud [mailto:(b) (6)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2018 4:36 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: EPA staff FIRED

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** URGENT (via DCCC) <dccc@dccc.org>  
**Date:** Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 6:36 PM  
**Subject:** EPA staff FIRED  
**To:** (b) (6)

**BREAKING: Scott Pruitt and Trump cutting EPA staff by 50%**

**SIGN YOUR NAME: Condemn Republicans for their disgusting, relentless attacks on the EPA and our environment >>**

Trump and Scott Pruitt spent 2017 slashing President Obama's environmental legacy.

Now they're trying to slash the entire Environmental Protection Agency -- by cutting its staff by HALF.

**SIGN ON: Condemn Scott Pruitt and Donald Trump for their relentless attacks on our environment and EPA >>**

**NAME:** (b) (6)  
**Petition Signature: SIGN ON >>**

**Sign Your Name >>**

We're FURIOUS.

The Republicans are on an all-out crusade to decimate President Obama's environmental legacy!

- Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt are gutting the EPA's staff by 50%.
- That's the lowest level since the 1980s.
- And they're even bribing employees to leave... *using TAXPAYER MONEY!*

President Obama worked so hard to protect our environment.

But Trump and Pruitt are out to destroy everything he accomplished -- ***and our planet is getting caught in the crosshairs.***

This is downright dangerous.

We need you to sign on and condemn them for playing politics with our planet NOW.

**200,000 SIGNATURES NEEDED: Condemn  
Republicans for destroying the EPA and the planet >>**

Thanks,

DCCC

---

Paid for by the DCCC | 430 South Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC 20003 | (202) 863-1500 | [www.dccc.org](http://www.dccc.org) | Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

---

This message was sent to: [mabboud15@gmail.com](mailto:mabboud15@gmail.com) | If you'd like to sign up for emails in a different account, click [here](#).

We believe that emails are a crucial way for our campaign to stay in touch with supporters. However, if you'd just like to receive fewer emails, you can click [here](#).

We're working hard to make sure Republicans are held accountable for their actions and that President Obama's legacy is protected. We need all hands on deck if we're going to keep Trump and his Republican Congress in check. Our success relies on grassroots supporters like you. 99% of our contributions come from grassroots donations, with an average gift of \$26. If you'd like to unsubscribe from DCCC emails, click [here](#). If you'd like to make an online donation, click [here](#). Thanks for your support of Democrats!

Contributions or gifts to the DCCC are not tax deductible.

Message

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/26/2018 5:46:24 PM  
**To:** regionalpress [regionalpress@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

yes

---

**From:** regionalpress  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 12:44 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

---

**From:** Grantham, Nancy  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 5:43:52 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** Kelley, Jeff; Bowman, Liz  
**Cc:** regionalpress; Rowan, Anne  
**Subject:** Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

See Cathy quote below - AP now covering - are you ok with it going? Thx ng

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2018, at 11:38 AM, Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov> wrote:

Cathy would like to respond ... could you give me a call?

(b) (5)



---  
**Jeff Kelley**  
*Director, Office of External Communications*  
*U.S. EPA Region 5*  
*ph: 312-353-1159*

---

**From:** Bassler, Rachel  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 10:05 AM  
**To:** regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

We received the following inquiry from the AP in Madison, Wisc. Jeff is consulting with Cathy and Ed.

**From:** Richmond, Todd [mailto:TRichmond@ap.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 10:01 AM  
**To:** Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Associated Press inquiry

Hello. My name is Todd Richmond. I'm a reporter with The Associated Press in Madison, Wisconsin. I'm working on a story following up on a piece in the Chicago Tribune about how Administrator Cathy Stepp apparently followed Wisconsin driving examiners around while wearing a fake nose disguise to see how driving tests works.  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chicago-inc/ct-met-epa-cathy-stepp-0125-chicago-inc-20180125-story.html>

I was wondering if it's possible to speak briefly with Ms. Stepp by phone today to confirm the story and see if she has any reaction to it. In lieu of an interview, can anyone on your staff answer the following questions:

\_Where and when did Hannah Stepp tell this story? Was it indeed at an introductory meeting for all 200 regional EPA employees?  
\_Was it ethical for Cathy Stepp to tail driver examiners to get a better understanding of the test for her daughter?  
\_Does she carry a fake nose around with her, as the Tribune story suggests?

My deadline is immediate. Any help would be appreciated. Thank you.

**AP**

Todd Richmond  
Associated Press  
608-255-3679 (o)  
608-658-1120 (cell)

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

Message

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/27/2018 6:47:27 PM  
**To:** Miranda Green [mgreen@thehill.com]  
**CC:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Per your Request -

Please send to your editor, as you haven't provided his/her name or contact information yet.

**Major EPA reorganization will end science research program – Not true, research will continue**  
**BY MIRANDA GREEN - 02/26/18 08:49 PM EST**

A federal environmental program that distributes grants to test the effects of chemical exposure on adults and children is being shuttered amidst a major organization consolidation at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Not true: The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership. Nothing is "being shuttered" there is no "major organization"

The National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) will no longer exist following plans to combine three EPA offices, the agency confirmed to The Hill on Monday.

Not true: No functions will be eliminated. Career and political staff – together- have initiated a process to bring multiple functions into one office – based on changes that have occurred over years.

The program provides millions of dollars in grants each year.

Funding of grants has nothing to do with any potential reorganization.

Perhaps best known for its handling of fellowships that study the effects of chemicals on children's health, the NCER will be dissolved and science staff serving there will be reassigned elsewhere within the department, the EPA said.

NOT TRUE: Nothing is "being dissolved" – staff will join with functions similar to what they are doing; no functions are being eliminated.

The merger will involve the EPA's Office of Administrative and Research Support, Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management, and the grants and contracts managed by the NCER to create a new Office of Resource Management.

A merging of functions is very different than a "shuttering amidst a major reorganization"

Other EPA functions consolidated into the new office include the handling of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, records management and budget formulation functions.



FOIA responses are functions performed across the agency, in all offices. There are FOIA officers in each, program/office. That isn't changing.

An EPA spokesperson said the extensive organizational changes are meant to create more efficiency within the agency.

Where did you get the word "extensive" – seems subjective. You are neglecting to say that this is an efficiency designed by career leadership, that is being initiated and going through the approval process.

"EPA's Office of Research and Development is one of the world's leading environmental and human health research organizations. In order to maintain the quality and focus of our research, senior leaders from the research and development office are proactively taking steps to create management efficiencies within the organization," the spokesperson said. "These changes will help EPA's Office of Research and Development be more responsive to agency priorities and funding realities."

The White House's fiscal 2018 and 2019 budgets both proposed zeroing out major programs under the NCER, but the cuts were not taken up in the most recent congressional budget.

The budget has nothing to do with this.

An EPA spokesperson said that under the planned overhaul, employees currently working at the NCER will not be fired, but may have their positions altered.

"fired" seems like fearmongering here – also, this is not true: all functions are continuing and the reorganization effort being initiated does not affect any employment status. The email that YOU QUOTE FROM says "staff affected will retain the grade and career ladder of their position"!

"At the appropriate time, the science staff currently in NCER will be redeployed to the [Office of Research and Development] labs/centers/offices matching their expertise to organizational needs. This reorganization could result in a change of positions or functions. Staff in the affected organizations will retain the grade and career ladder of their position of record," the spokesperson said.

See above.

The NCER is largely known for the funding it provides through its premiere program, Science To Achieve Results (STAR). Under the STAR program, grants are given to the Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers, which were established in 1988 to discover methods to reduce children's health risks from environmental factors.

As explained: The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"Those programs have been so successful in advancing our scientific understanding and our ability to address the ways that environmental chemicals can impact children's health," said Tracey Woodruff, a former senior scientist and policy adviser at the EPA under the Clinton and Bush administrations. "The children centers were really the first and only centers to uncover the relationship with prenatal exposure to flame retardants and IQ deficiencies in children."

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

A report released by the National Academy of Sciences last year that was compiled at the EPA's request championed the STAR program for its "numerous successes."

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"STAR has had numerous successes, such as in research on human health implications of air pollution, on environmental effects on children's health and well-being, on interactions between climate change and air quality, and on the human health implications of nanoparticles. Those are just a few examples; many more could be cited," the report read.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

A former EPA official who worked within the NCER said the loss of the STAR program would be harmful to both the EPA and national science.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"The program was designed to not provide direct benefits to the agency but to the public. Without the STAR grants program there is a loss of an environmental agency that will look at both environmental and human health issues and to exam environmental issues of the future," the source cautioned.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

Woodruff called the decision to merge the NCER with the other offices, which currently do not focus on handling grants, extremely concerning.

The funding of grants has nothing to do with a reorganization that has been initiated by ORD career and political leadership.

"They make it sound like this is a way to create efficiency, but it masks what's happening to this actually programmatic, scientific function of NCER and the STAR program. That makes you think, is this really just an efficiency argument masking their real intention to get rid of the research grant program, which they have said they want to do in the past?" she said. "Answering FOIAs and administering scientific grants are not the same thing."

Exactly; maybe The Hill should explain to readers that each EPA office typically has a FOIA officer and the reorganization that is initiated is to help consolidate administration activities of this particular department – not to change FOIAs, and that – AGAIN – the funding of grants has nothing to do with this.

The EPA has recently acknowledged a slow-down in the rate of FOIA requests answered, citing a backlog in previous requests made under the Obama administration and an uptick in FOIA requests sent since President Trump took office.

The EPA official did not acknowledge how the agency rearrangement may address those issues.

Liz Bowman  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Office: 202-564-3293

Message

---

**From:** Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/5/2018 6:29:29 PM  
**To:** Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE:

Newsweek has some very big problems—this just dropped

@kelseymsutton

new — Newsweek's editor in chief, executive editor and two staffers have been abruptly fired. story  
TK

<https://twitter.com/kelseymsutton/status/960579150116544512>

---

**From:** Abboud, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2018 1:13 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE:

I'm sure it will be a very thoughtful unbiased piece.

---

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2018 1:10 PM  
**To:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd:

FYI ...

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Alexander Nazaryan (b) (6) >  
**Date:** February 5, 2018 at 12:41:03 PM EST  
**To:** "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>

jahan, just want to let you know the cover story on Pruitt is dropping this Thursday.

all best,

Alex

--

Alexander Nazaryan

Senior Writer

Newsweek

(718) 612-3356

<http://www.newsweek.com/authors/alex-nazaryan>

Message

---

**From:** Dewey, Amy [Dewey.Amy@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/3/2018 3:26:39 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fwd: EPA's top spokesperson to depart

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard" <[politicoemail@politicopro.com](mailto:politicoemail@politicopro.com)>  
**Date:** May 3, 2018 at 11:23:09 AM EDT  
**To:** <[dewey.amy@epa.gov](mailto:dewey.amy@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** EPA's top spokesperson to depart  
**Reply-To:** "POLITICO subscriptions" <[reply-fe8b13747267037e70-1178304\\_HTML-794293337-1376319-0@politicoemail.com](mailto:reply-fe8b13747267037e70-1178304_HTML-794293337-1376319-0@politicoemail.com)>

By Emily Holden

05/03/2018 11:21 AM EDT

EPA's top spokeswoman is leaving the agency, the latest in a string of departures by key staffers amid the swarm of investigations into Administrator Scott Pruitt's potential ethical lapses.

The exit of Liz Bowman comes after Pruitt's lead security agent Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta and EPA's Superfund task force head and adviser Albert "Kell" Kelly both quit earlier this week. Perrotta has cited negative media attention as contributing to his decision. His role in Pruitt's security spending was under review by the agency's inspector general, and he was interviewed by House Oversight Committee staffers on Wednesday.

EPA also confirmed Kelly was leaving after attracting controversy over his ban from the banking industry.

Bowman, who will move to a job on Capitol Hill, has been associate administrator for public affairs since shortly after Pruitt was confirmed in early 2017. She was previously director of issue and advocacy communications for the American Chemistry Council.

"I leave extremely thankful for the opportunity to serve the Trump Administration and Administrator Pruitt," Bowman said. "Being a member of the EPA team has allowed me to further my skills, learn from my mistakes, and make lifelong friendships. It has also provided me the opportunity to develop a new, and deep, respect for the public servants who serve the American people, day in and day out, to ensure that we all have access to clean air, land, and water."

EPA chief of staff Ryan Jackson said Bowman "has been an invaluable lead of our public affairs office during this past year."

"I congratulate her on pursuing great and new opportunities on Capitol Hill where we'll continue to work with her just in a different capacity," he said.

Bowman's last day at EPA is May 11.

*Daniel Lippman contributed to this report.*

*To view online:*

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2018/05/epas-top-spokesperson-to-depart-1153943>

Was this Pro content helpful? Tell us what you think in one click.



Yes, very



Somewhat



Neutral



Not really



Not at all

**You received this POLITICO Pro content because your customized settings include:  
Energy: Scott Pruitt; Energy: EPA. To change your alert settings, please go to  
<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/settings>**

# POLITICOPRO

This email was sent to [dewey.amy@epa.gov](mailto:dewey.amy@epa.gov) by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Message

---

**From:** Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/1/2018 10:26:44 PM  
**To:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**CC:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Administrator Pruitt sought new EPA office in Tulsa, Okla.

Kevin,

**"Since 2012, there is an EPA office in Tulsa for two EPA employees when they need to work remotely. This location is not practical or usable for Administrator Pruitt's business and he has never used this office." – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox**

BACKGROUND ...

EPA officials initially made us aware of the Tulsa Office because previous Administrators like Whitman would sometimes use the Edison office near her home in New Jersey and sometimes McCarthy would use the Boston office when she was home.

Have a good evening.  
Kelsi

Sent from my iPhone

On May 1, 2018, at 5:25 PM, Kevin Bogardus <[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)> wrote:

Hey guys,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.

I'm working on a story about Administrator Pruitt having sought to establish a new EPA office in Tulsa, Okla. Democrats on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee sent letters to EPA and GSA asking about this proposal (please see below). I had a few questions about this, which are:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Did Administrator Pruitt seek to establish a new EPA office in Tulsa? If so, why?
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->What are the status of these plans by EPA? Will EPA open a new agency office in Tulsa? If so, when? And how much will it cost?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is noon EST Wednesday, May 2, but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

**Kevin Bogardus**  
E&E News reporter  
[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)  
202-446-0401 (p)  
202-247-7844 (c)



## E&E NEWS

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) • [www.eenews.tv](http://www.eenews.tv)

EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

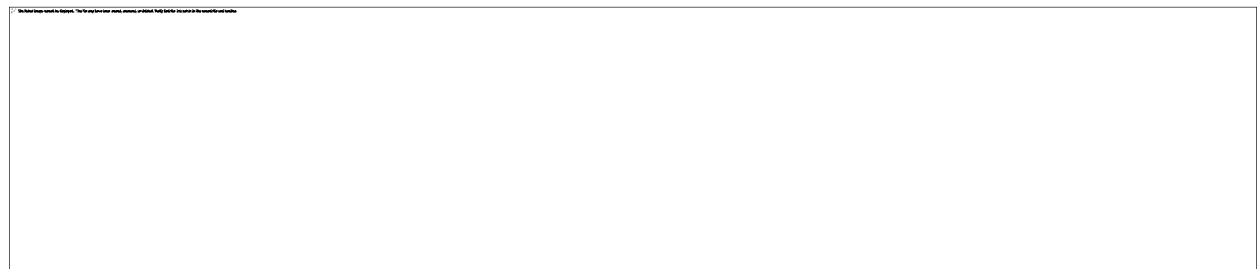
---

**From:** Dem Science Committee Press [<mailto:DemScienceCommitteePress@mail.house.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 4:17 PM

**To:** Eskandani, Rebekah <[Rebekah.Eskandani@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rebekah.Eskandani@mail.house.gov)>; Kopshever, Kristin <[Kristin.Kopshever@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kristin.Kopshever@mail.house.gov)>

**Subject:** EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Has Sought New EPA Office Complete with Secure Facility in Hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma



For Immediate Release

May 1, 2018

Contact: (202) 225-6375

Kristin Kopshever - [Kristin.Kopshever@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kristin.Kopshever@mail.house.gov)

Rebekah Eskandani - [Rebekah.Eskandani@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rebekah.Eskandani@mail.house.gov)

## **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Has Sought New EPA Office Complete with Secure Facility in Hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma**

(Washington, DC) – Today, **Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**, **Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Congressman Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D-VA)** and **Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Environment, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)** sent two records request letters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the General Services Administration (GSA). The letters request documents and communications regarding EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's efforts to establish a new EPA office in his hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma, despite the fact that EPA already has a regional office in nearby Dallas, Texas. The Administrator requested the new office include a conference room, secure parking space, and a Secure Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Earlier this month the Government Accountability Office (GAO) ruled that the EPA's construction of a "soundproof privacy booth in the EPA Administrator's office" in Washington, D.C., which reportedly has not been certified as a SCIF, was unlawful because it violated the Antideficiency Act.

It is unclear what progress the EPA and GSA have made in establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The efforts first began in January 2017 when Mr. Ryan Jackson, the then Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, asked the EPA to explore establishing a Tulsa office for Administrator Pruitt, just days before Mr. Jackson was hired by Administrator Pruitt as the EPA's Chief of Staff.

This most recent case of questionable financial management adds to the growing concerns about Administrator Pruitt's misuse of taxpayers' funds and potential ethical lapses in judgement. Aside from the recent GAO findings, the EPA Inspectors General's (IG's) office is currently investigating Administrator Pruitt's frequent travel home to Oklahoma, his foreign trips, and his use of first class travel

arrangements and charter aircraft. The IG's office is also investigating his use of an EPA security detail on personal trips. The Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has requested material from Administrator Pruitt's office regarding his arrangement to pay \$50 per night to stay in a Washington, D.C. condominium owned by a lobbyist whose firm had clients with business before the EPA. In addition, Mick Mulvaney, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has launched a review of Scott Pruitt's spending habits as EPA Administrator.

"Establishing a new EPA office in Tulsa may be personally convenient for you, but it seems ethically questionable, professionally unnecessary, and financially unjustified," the Ranking Members wrote to Administrator Pruitt.

Please visit our website: <http://democrats-science.house.gov>

<!--[if !vml]-->



<image004.png>



<!--[endif]-->

The content image001.jpg of type has been blocked.

Message

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** 3/6/2018 4:54:36 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Whitehouse, Carper Raise Red Flags About EPA Contract with Business Partner of Pruitt's Security Chief

Many thanks, Jahan. I will include the below in my story. Thanks again.

*An EPA spokesman didn't say whether Perrotta recommended Steinmetz for the bug sweep contract.*

*"We will respond to Senator Carper and Senator Whitehouse through the proper channel," EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox told E&E News.*

-Kevin

---

**From:** Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2018 11:42 AM  
**To:** Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: RELEASE: Whitehouse, Carper Raise Red Flags About EPA Contract with Business Partner of Pruitt's Security Chief

**"We will respond to Senator Carper and Senator Whitehouse through the proper channel."** EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:39 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: RELEASE: Whitehouse, Carper Raise Red Flags About EPA Contract with Business Partner of Pruitt's Security Chief

Hi everyone,

Kevin Bogardus with E&E News.

I'm working on a piece about Sens. Carper and Whitehouse's letter questioning EPA's awarding of its contract for a surveillance bug sweep of Administrator Pruitt's office (please see below). I have one question for you, which is:

- Did Administrator Pruitt's head of his personal security detail, Acting Special Agent in Charge Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta, recommend to EPA officials his business partner Edwin Steinmetz for EPA's contract for a surveillance bug sweep of Administrator Pruitt's office?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

**Kevin Bogardus**

E&E News reporter

[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)

202-446-0401 (p)

202-247-7844 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me [@KevinBogardus](https://twitter.com/KevinBogardus)

---

**E&E NEWS**

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) • [www.eenews.tv](http://www.eenews.tv)

EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

---

**From:** Davidson, Richard (Whitehouse) [[mailto:Richard\\_Davidson@whitehouse.senate.gov](mailto:Richard_Davidson@whitehouse.senate.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2018 11:30 AM

**To:** Davidson, Richard (Whitehouse) <[Richard\\_Davidson@whitehouse.senate.gov](mailto:Richard_Davidson@whitehouse.senate.gov)>

**Subject:** RELEASE: Whitehouse, Carper Raise Red Flags About EPA Contract with Business Partner of Pruitt's Security Chief

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 6, 2018**

**Contact:**

**Rich Davidson (Whitehouse), 202-228-6291**

**Christine Brennan (Carper), 202-224-8832**

## **Whitehouse, Carper Raise Red Flags About EPA Contract with Business Partner of Pruitt's Security Chief**

*Washington, DC* – Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Tom Carper (D-DE) raised concerns with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt today about the side-business of Pruitt's head of security, Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta, whose business partner has received a security-related contract from the EPA. Perrotta, who lists himself as an "Acting Special Agent in Charge" at the EPA and has traveled on multiple occasions with Pruitt as part of his protective security detail, is currently listed as a Principal and founder of the Sequoia Security Group. At Sequoia, he is business partners with Edwin Steinmetz, whose company was among the contractors the Associated Press reports swept Pruitt's office for "hidden listening devices and bought sophisticated biometric locks for additional security" at the EPA.

"These facts raise questions about Mr. Perrotta's compliance with EPA regulations and concerns that he may have used his position at the agency to influence the award of EPA contracts to a person or company in which he has a financial interest," write Whitehouse and Carper. The Senators point to a number of government ethics rules Perrotta's business interests may bring into play. They ask Pruitt about Perrotta's current work at EPA, and for additional information on Sequoia and Edwin Steinmetz Associates.

**Full text of the Senators' letter is below.**

---

March 6, 2018

ED\_005771\_00000988-00002

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

We write to request that you provide information about the role Pasquale “Nino” Perrotta plays at Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). It has come to our attention that, in addition to being employed by EPA, Mr. Perrotta is also a Principal at Sequoia Security Group. We understand that at least one business partner of Mr. Perrotta’s at Sequoia, Edwin Steinmetz, has received a security-related contract from EPA within the last year. These facts raise questions about Mr. Perrotta’s compliance with EPA regulations and concerns that he may have used his position at the agency to influence the award of EPA contracts to a person or company in which he has a financial interest.

It is our understanding that Mr. Perrotta is a key member of your protective security detail. His LinkedIn profile states he serves as “Acting Special Agent in Charge” of a U.S. Government agency.<sup>[1]</sup> According to records provided by EPA to Senator Whitehouse last year, Mr. Perrotta has accompanied you on several trips outside Washington DC, including trips to Kentucky on June 7, 2017, Tulsa and Guymon, OK on July 27, 2017, Denver and Durango, CO on August 4, 2017, and Grand Forks, ND on August 9, 2017. This is likely an incomplete list of out-of-state travel by you and Mr. Perrotta because the documents provided were related only to your travel on non-commercial flights through August 2017, and Mr. Perrotta accompanied you on all four of the flights identified.

Sequoia Security Group, Inc. is a Maryland-based firm that purports to provide “unique and proven senior executive strategic leadership...in national security, cyber security, protection, investigations, risk, compliance, emergency preparedness and technical surveillance countermeasures.”<sup>[2]</sup> As a Principal in this company, Mr. Perrotta highlights his experience “in threat analysis/mitigation, physical and facility security, major event logistics and VIP travel.”<sup>[3]</sup> His firm biography includes the following:

Since 2004, Nino has been a Senior Special Agent with a United States Govenment [sic] Agency. He is charged with a dual mission, protecting a member of the U.S. Presidential cabinet and coordinating protective intelligence information. Nino has conducted numerous security preparations for his mission and has been responsible for the coordination of both domestic and foreign security advances and conducted sensitive internal and contract investigations valued up to \$250 million relating to waste, fraud, abuse and other violations of criminal and civil law.<sup>[4]</sup>

The firm has described Mr. Perrotta as its founder.<sup>[5]</sup> His biography on the Sequoia website does not specifically mention that he works for EPA or that the cabinet member he protects is you.

In December, the Associated Press reported that you hired one or more private contractors with federal funds to have your “office swept for hidden listening devices and bought sophisticated biometric locks for additional

---

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nino-perrotta-6b8bb412/>

<sup>[2]</sup> <http://sequoiasecuritygroup.com/about.html>

<sup>[3]</sup> <http://sequoiasecuritygroup.com/nino-perrotta.html>

<sup>[4]</sup> Id.

<sup>[5]</sup> <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/sequoia-security-group-inc-and-global-security-solutions-inc-team-up-in-strategic-global-partnership-300153905.html>

security.”<sup>[6]</sup> That article indicated that a \$3,000 contract was given to Edwin Steinmetz Associates for a “bug sweep” and two other contracts, both under the \$3,500 threshold for public reporting, were given for the purchase of biometric locks. Mr. Steinmetz is Vice President of Technical Surveillance Countermeasures at Sequoia; in other words, he is a business partner of Mr. Perrotta.<sup>[7]</sup> The recipients of the other contracts were not identified in the article.

EPA has adopted supplemental regulations governing outside employment by EPA employees. Those regulations:

- Require approval from an EPA ethics official before an employee engages in outside employment, including consulting services or a subject matter that deals with the policies, programs or operations of EPA;
- Require that any request for approval of outside employment be submitted in writing, and specify the nature of the activity, the name of the organization for which the work will be done, the estimated time to be devoted to the job, and whether the service will be performed entirely outside business hours;
- Prohibit the use of official duty time or federal resources from being used for the outside employment;
- Require that the employee submit revised requests for approval upon a change in the nature and scope of the employee’s duties at EPA or the employee’s outside employment; and
- Limit any approval to five years.<sup>[8]</sup>

EPA employees are also subject to federal law and regulations governing conflicts of interest. 18 U.S.C. 208 prohibits federal employees from participating “personally and substantially as a Government officer or employee...in a...contract, claim...or other particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he, his...general partner, [or] organization in which he is serving as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee...has a financial interest.” A waiver to the provisions of section 208 may be granted only if EPA determines in advance that the “employee’s financial interest in the particular matter or matters is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Government may expect from such employee.”<sup>[9]</sup>

So we can understand how EPA is ensuring that Mr. Perrotta is complying with the requirements of 5 C.F.R. 6401.103, please provide the following:

- All requests for approval of outside employment by Mr. Perrotta, including supporting documentation and any other information relevant to the requirements of 5 C.F.R. 6401.103.
- All approvals given by EPA for his outside employment, including any guidance about or limitations to those approvals in any form.
- All financial disclosures made by Mr. Perrotta during his employment at EPA. If Mr. Perrotta did not make financial disclosures for any period of his employment at EPA, please provide an explanation of those gaps.

With respect to Mr. Perrotta’s current work at EPA:

- What are Mr. Perrotta’s current job title and responsibilities? How have his position and responsibilities changed during your tenure as Administrator?
- Mr. Perrotta’s LinkedIn page describes his current position as “Acting Special Agent in Charge.” If that is an accurate description, why is he in an “acting” role? Are there plans to post that position for all eligible applicants to compete for? If not, why not? Under what circumstances did the prior Special Agent in Charge leave?

---

<sup>[6]</sup> Michael Biesecker, “EPA chief sweeps office for bugs, installs high-tech locks” Associated Press, Dec. 19, 2017, available at: <https://www.apnews.com/242fd35342c34a41b2e2db69b64c44d1>.

<sup>[7]</sup> <http://sequoiasecuritygroup.com/edwin-steinmetz.html>

<sup>[8]</sup> 5 C.F.R. 6401.103

<sup>[9]</sup> 5 C.F.R. 2635.402(d)(2)(ii).

- If Mr. Perrotta's job responsibilities have changed, how did EPA account for them in decisions authorizing his outside employment pursuant to 5 C.F.R. 6401.103?
- In his private employment at Sequoia, Mr. Perrotta notes his expertise in "threat analysis and mitigation" and "VIP travel." Please provide any written assessments authored in whole or in part, or reviewed by, Mr. Perrotta, of security threats to you, including but not limited to the determination that security considerations required you to fly first-class, that you needed to have your office swept for electronic listening devices, that you needed to install biometric locks, that you needed a secure communications booth, that you require around-the-clock security protection, and any other non-disclosed security measure or project you have decided to undertake.
- Is Mr. Perrotta responsible for any contracting decisions, including the determination that EPA should contract for private security services or who should be awarded a contract?
- Please provide any waivers to the conflict of interest provisions of 18 U.S.C. 208 issued by EPA to Mr. Perrotta.

With respect to Sequoia and Edwin Steinmetz Associates:

- Please provide copies of all contracts between EPA and Sequoia, Edwin Steinmetz Associates, or any other person associated with Sequoia.
- Please provide copies of all three contracts related to the bug sweep and biometric locks identified in the Associated Press article.
- Was Mr. Perrotta involved in any decision related to the need for this particular security assessment or the award of these contracts in particular? If so, please provide any documentation authorizing him to participate in these decisions.
- Were these contracts competitively bid? If not, why not and please describe how contractors were selected.

We would appreciate a response to these questions, and responsive documents, not later than March 21, 2018. If you have any questions about these requests please contact [our staff].

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nino-perrotta-6b8bb412/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://sequoiasecuritygroup.com/about.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://sequoiasecuritygroup.com/nino-perrota.html>

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/sequoia-security-group-inc-and-global-security-solutions-inc-team-up-in-strategic-global-partnership-300153905.html>

<sup>6</sup> Michael Biesecker, "EPA chief sweeps office for bugs, installs high-tech locks" Associated Press, Dec. 19, 2017, available at: <https://www.apnews.com/242fd35342c34a41b2e2db69b64c44d1>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://sequoiasecuritygroup.com/edwin-steinmetz.html>

<sup>8</sup> 5 C.F.R. 6401.103

<sup>9</sup> 5 C.F.R. 2635.402(d)(2)(ii).

###

.....



Message

---

**From:** Greenwalt, Sarah [greenwalt.sarah@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/18/2018 12:29:15 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hupp, Millan [hupp.millan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Source: Pruitt to visit Japan next week

Thanks for sharing. It's weird that they have dates that are so totally wrong.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 18, 2018, at 8:57 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)> wrote:

Haha. HTTPS://

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 17, 2018, at 6:54 PM, Daniell, Kelsi <[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov](mailto:daniell.kelsi@epa.gov)> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard"  
<[politicoemail@politicopro.com](mailto:politicoemail@politicopro.com)>  
**Date:** January 17, 2018 at 6:51:57 PM EST  
**To:** <[daniell.kelsi@epa.gov](mailto:daniell.kelsi@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Source: Pruitt to visit Japan next week  
**Reply-To:** "POLITICO subscriptions" <[reply-fe881373756202757c-1178304\\_HTML-848943095-1376319-0@politicoemail.com](mailto:reply-fe881373756202757c-1178304_HTML-848943095-1376319-0@politicoemail.com)>

By Emily Holden

01/17/2018 06:50 PM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will go to Japan next week to discuss "general environment cooperation," an administration official told POLITICO today.

Details of who Pruitt will meet with or what he plans to discuss were not immediately available. EPA officials refused to confirm the trip ahead of time, as they have in the past.

EPA's inspector general is already investigating Pruitt's travel and recently expanded its probe at the request of a Democratic lawmaker to include a December trip to Morocco, where Pruitt

discussed natural gas imports, in addition to other environmental issues.

Pruitt also reportedly plans to visit Israel from Jan. 26-28, officials there have said. It's unclear if the trips could be combined.

Japan is the leading importer of liquefied natural gas and has also increasingly relied on coal-fired power following the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011. One of the biggest American coal companies has a deal to send a quarter of its exports to Japan, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox in an email today said "every meeting that Administrator Pruitt attends is posted on <https://www.epa.gov>." That website is updated after the fact and does not include the full details of Pruitt's schedule. The agency has previously cited security concerns in refusing to share details of Pruitt's activities ahead of time.

*To view online:*

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2018/01/source-pruitt-to-visit-japan-next-week-413219>

Was this Pro content helpful? Tell us what you think in one click.



Yes, very



Somewhat



Neutral



Not really



Not at all

**You received this POLITICO Pro content because your customized settings include: Energy: Scott Pruitt; Energy: EPA; Key phrase: scott pruitt. To change your alert settings, please go to <https://www.politicopro.com/settings>**

# POLITICOPRO

This email was sent to [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov](mailto:daniell.kelsi@epa.gov) by: POLITICO, LLC  
1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Message

---

**From:** Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/5/2018 9:13:29 PM  
**To:** Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Jackson, Ryan [jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]; Gordon, Stephen [gordon.stephen@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Cory, Preston (Katherine) [Cory.Preston@epa.gov]; Ringel, Aaron [ringel.aaron@epa.gov]; Palich, Christian [palich.christian@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT - recent media coverage  
**Attachments:** Pruitt coverage highlights updated.docx

Updated doc attached. Will continue to add as we get more.

---

**From:** Daniell, Kelsi  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 7:15 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Bennett.Tate@epa.gov>; Gordon, Stephen <gordon.stephen@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Cory, Preston (Katherine) <Cory.Preston@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT - recent media coverage

Yes sir. I have it printed for him.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2018, at 7:10 PM, Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov> wrote:

Kelsi, are you on SP's flight? If so can you print this off for him?

---

**From:** Daniell, Kelsi  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 6:05 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bennett, Tate <Bennett.Tate@epa.gov>; Gordon, Stephen <gordon.stephen@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Cory, Preston (Katherine) <Cory.Preston@epa.gov>; Ringel, Aaron <ringel.aaron@epa.gov>; Palich, Christian <palich.christian@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** DRAFT - recent media coverage

All – below and attached is the *initial* coverage we've captured. Molly will help with this tomorrow, as I'm on the road. Let us know what's missing thus far. Thanks!

NATIONAL ...

**The Federalist: Scott Pruitt Is Trump's Biggest Asset. That's Why the Left Wants Him Gone.** "After Donald Trump, the individual in DC with the biggest target on his back is Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt. When he was attorney general of Oklahoma, he sued the EPA more than a dozen times to get the powerful regulatory agency to stay within its legal authority. His nomination was deeply concerning to radical environmentalists inside and outside the media. As a

result, he and his team have been under a microscope since even before his confirmation in early 2017. Well-funded environmental groups, many with former EPA staffers, deluge the agency with FOIA requests to catch someone in a scandal. Unlike how they covered Obama-era EPA administrators, media outlets constantly request information about everything Pruitt does, from his schedule to his travel particulars. Whipped-up partisans have made unprecedented numbers of death threats against him and his family. Powerful liberals opine against him.”

**Red State: Why are people who are supposed to be conservative trying to torpedo Scott Pruitt?** “Pruitt is a guy we should all be lining up to defend. Under Pruitt, the EPA accepted responsibility for the disastrous spill it created at the Gold King mine in Colorado. And he committed substantial resources to the clean-up. He’s prioritized the clean-up of Super Fund sites that have lingered for decades. He has taken fire and sword to the onerous regulatory strait jacket the Obama administration tried to impose on the US economy. Pruitt had begun the repeal of Obama’s Clean Power Plan coal regs and the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. Under Pruitt, an executive order was issued to rescind the EPA’s overreaching Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that often allowed the EPA to claim jurisdiction over literal mudholes.”

**The Hill: EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Gets Results — That’s Why He’s A Target Of The Left.** “President Donald Trump is standing by his embattled Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt, according to reports. Let’s be clear, that is good thing for both Trump and the country. Pruitt is one of the shining stars of the Trump administration, and no one who supports the president’s “Make America Great Again” agenda should want him replaced...Yet some hope that by attacking Pruitt on fake ethics charges, the media-created scandal will cause the Trump White House to either foolishly force Pruitt out or cause him to throw up his hands in disgust and resign. This would be a disaster for President Trump and all of us who care about his success.”

**The Resurgent: Firing Scott Pruitt Will Only Embolden the Left.** “Scott Pruitt is being targeted because he is effective. The President needs to stand behind Pruitt. It is an open secret in Washington that a leftwing opposition research firm has hired investigators to dig into Trump Administration officials. It is no coincidence that many of the accusations, like with former Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, involve private air travel and the like. It is what these investigators focus on to give the media easy stories.”

**The Daily Signal: 3 Reasons the Left Hates Scott Pruitt.** “From the Clean Power Plan, which was all about Obama’s climate agenda and which had nothing to do with creating clean air (we already have laws about that), to the Waters of the United States regulation which could turn a puddle in your front yard into environmentally-protected swamp land—Pruitt has been rolling back many of the regulations put in place by Obama’s overzealous, power-grabbing, and arguably unconstitutional EPA.”

**The Washington Times: President Trump should stand by his man at EPA; Scott Pruitt deserves no less.** “EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has been the most effective cabinet secretary President Trump has had during his 14-month presidency. He has loyally carried out the president’s aggressive agenda against out-of-control federal regulations that stifle economic growth and kill American jobs. Pruitt has faithfully fulfilled Trump’s campaign promises by rolling back Obama-era environmental overreach and halting most new regulations that were in the pipeline when he inherited the bloated agency from his predecessor, Gina McCarthy. Pruitt has spearheaded Trump’s agenda with impactful moves like pulling out of the Paris climate accords, reforming CAFE standards and rolling back the obtrusive way the EPA administered the Clean Water Act. As the man willing to attack these sacred cows of the Left Pruitt has been rewarded with legitimate and specific death threats against himself and his family.”

**The Washington Examiner: While media fixate on Scott Pruitt’s living arrangements, his EPA reforms are praiseworthy.** “Pruitt’s efforts to alleviate the regulatory burden on average Americans while working to restore sound scientific practices within the EPA arguably rank among the Trump

administration's most significant policy achievements. EPA officials quoted in the press have said Pruitt's living arrangements did not violate ethics rules. Even if there is no technical violation, appearances matter in Washington. That's especially true for someone who has been remarkably effective up until now in advancing the Trump administration's efforts to free the economy from centralized planning in Washington."

**The Daily Signal: Exclusive: EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Says Media Reports About Him Don't Tell True Story.**

"We had a memo and a statement from career ethics officials here that have actually reviewed the lease, that actually reviewed comps—comparables of similar units,' Pruitt, the former attorney general of Oklahoma, told The Daily Signal. 'And I think what's missed in this: I didn't rent a unit,' Pruitt said. 'I didn't rent an apartment. This was an Airbnb-type situation where I rented literally one room that was used in a temporary status, until I found more permanent residence.'"

**USA Today: With President Trump in his corner, Scott Pruitt's job at EPA looks safe – for now.** "Why go and replace someone who's doing a very good job (carrying out) the president's agenda,' said Jason Miller, a former senior communications adviser to the Trump campaign and transition team. 'It hasn't gone unnoticed that Administrator Pruitt is accomplishing a lot for the president and in a much quicker time period than anyone thought possible.'"

**The Daily Caller: Conservative Pundits Rally to EPA's Scott Pruitt as Dems Call for His Head.**

"Conservative allies have come to the aid of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt as lawmakers, environmental activists and pundits call for his resignation... Wall Street Journal columnist Kimberley Strassel called the wave of anti-Pruitt stories "absurd," pointing out that Obama EPA officials spent more on travel and that agency ethics officials approved of the administrator's temporary living arrangement in the condo."

**The Washington Examiner: Embattled Scott Pruitt Rips 'Toxic' Washington, Says Critics 'Will Resort To Anything' To Stop Trump Agenda.** "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Tuesday forcefully pushed back against criticism that he won a short-term sweetheart rental deal from a lobbyist friend, claiming it's just the latest attempt by his and the president's attackers to 'resort to anything' to stop their agenda. 'There are people that have long in this town done business a different way and this agency has been the poster child of it. And so do I think that because we are leading on this agenda that there are some who want to keep that from happening? Absolutely. And do I think that they will resort to anything to achieve that? Yes,' he said in an interview with Secrets. 'It's toxic here in that regard,' said Pruitt, one of a handful of President's Trump's agency heads who is scoring wins on his pro-jobs, anti-regulatory campaign. Pruitt, speaking confidently about his future, said that critics who have focused on his \$50 a night room rental in an Airbnb-style townhouse and his air travel are really out to stop the administration's anti-regulatory effort that has saved \$8 billion overall and \$1 billion in reduced Environmental Protection Agency regulations."

**CNN: EPA's Pruitt Fulfilling Trump's Anti-Regulatory Agenda.** "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is drawing scrutiny for his housing situation and travel practices, but in his role as the nation's top environmental official, he's a reliable administration foot soldier, making good on President Donald Trump's campaign promises for fewer environmental regulations and to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement. Since he was confirmed to the job last February, Pruitt has taken an aggressive approach to rolling back Obama-era regulations, most recently this week's announcement that he would revise fuel efficiency rules designed to cut back on emissions of greenhouse gases. "This is another step in the President's regulatory agenda, de-regulatory agenda ... a billion dollars in savings with respect to over 22 significant regulatory actions that we've been involved in here at the agency," Pruitt said at EPA headquarters Tuesday."

**E&E News: Conservatives Rally Behind Pruitt.** "Conservatives are supporting U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt as he struggles with reports of premium travel, high-price security and ties to lobbyists. Myron Ebell, who led President Trump's EPA transition team, told E&E News that Pruitt has been

consequential in achieving the president's goals. Pruitt has proposed repealing several Obama-era regulations, winning plaudits from free-market and business groups that have long battled with EPA. "We're getting the word out that Administrator Pruitt is doing a good job in implementing the president's agenda and Administrator Pruitt is a key part of that agenda," Ebell said. "We're trying to keep the free-market groups and the conservative groups together in support of the agenda." Ebell, director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center for Energy and Environment, talked to E&E News on his way to EPA headquarters today to attend Pruitt's announcement of the rollback of Obama-era auto fuel efficiency standards. Ebell declined to speculate whether Pruitt's job is in jeopardy."

Hot Air: Pruitt talks streamlining the agency, RFS, and "the swamp." Administrator Pruitt does not admit to being a cryptozoological creature, nor can he confirm that he will be starring as a villain in an upcoming Marvel superhero movie. There's more about the EPA's move to only accept real science rather than secret science in their decision-making process as well as some hints at new regulatory moves on the horizon.

<image001.png>

NPR: Working with Scott Pruitt. Lawyer David Rivkin worked with Pruitt and talks with NPR's David Greene.

<image002.png>

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING...

Daily Torch: If environmental radicals are in full panic mode over Scott Pruitt at EPA, that means he is doing a good job. "The left has spent over a decade trying to expand the influence and oversight of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but the American people voted against this influence when they elected President Trump to prioritize economic advancement. Trump followed through on this promise by appointing Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator. The left is now trying everything to destroy his position and defame his record, but Pruitt must power through, his job is far too important...Scott Pruitt has done his job, and he has done it well. All the left's continued attacks prove is that it is willing to dismiss facts in favor of pushing an agenda. Pruitt must continue charting the EPA's path toward a balance between environmental concerns and economic development and security, rather than be distracted by the baseless attacks from political opponents, and President Trump needs to stand behind this stalwart of his administration, who is big part of what is needed to make America great again."

Freedom Works: Continues to support the leadership of Administrator Scott Pruitt. "Adam Brandon: 'Scott Pruitt has worked hard to return the EPA to its core mission: protecting the environment as directed by Congress; instead of the rogue assault on the rule of law, freedom, and the economy that we saw in the prior administration.' Ken Cuccinelli: 'Unlike his predecessors, EPA Administrator Pruitt has core environmental accomplishments to his credit: like actually making progress on the long-dormant superfund sites and attacking the problem of lead in drinking water. These are basic responsibilities for the EPA, yet they were abject failures prior to Pruitt's arrival.'"

Governor Matt Bevin (R-KY)

<image003.png><image004.png><image005.png><image006.png>

Kim Strassel, Wall Street Journal.

<image007.png>

Mollie Hemingway, The Federalist.

<image008.png>

Erick Erickson, Resurgent.

<image009.png>

Freedom Works.

<image010.png>

Elisha Krauss, Real Daily Wire.

<image011.png>

Cindy Bobbitt, National Association of Counties Central Region.

<image012.png>

David Limbaugh, Columnist.

<image013.png>

Count on Coal.

<image014.png>

Kurt Schlichter, Townhall.

<image015.png>

Arkansas Farm Bureau.

<image016.png>

Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK).

<image017.png>

Rob Bluey, Daily Signal.

<image018.png><image019.png>

<image020.png>

Message

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** 2/20/2018 4:55:27 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: E&C Democrats Demand Justification for Pruitt's Luxury Travel

Hey everyone,

Kevin Bogardus with E&E News again.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts on this House Energy and Commerce Democrats' letter regarding Administrator Pruitt's travel (please see below).

If you do wish to comment, please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is 12:30 pm EST but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

**Kevin Bogardus**  
E&E News reporter  
[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)  
202-446-0401 (p)  
202-247-7844 (c)  
202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me [@KevinBogardus](#)

---

**E&E NEWS**

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) • [www.eenews.tv](http://www.eenews.tv)

EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

---

**From:** E&C Dem News [mailto:[ecdemnews@mail.house.gov](mailto:ecdemnews@mail.house.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 11:46 AM  
**To:** E&C Dem News <[ecdemnews@mail.house.gov](mailto:ecdemnews@mail.house.gov)>  
**Subject:** E&C Democrats Demand Justification for Pruitt's Luxury Travel



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 20, 2018

**CONTACT**  
[CJ Young](#) – (202) 225-5735



## E&C Democrats Demand Justification for Pruitt's Luxury Travel

*"Americans deserve an EPA Administrator more dedicated to first-class protection of human health and the environment than to luxury travel at taxpayer expense."*

**Washington, DC** – Energy and Commerce Democratic leaders sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt today demanding answers on outrageous reports of Pruitt's luxury travel at taxpayer expense. According to multiple press reports, Pruitt has repeatedly traveled in first-class at taxpayer expense and stayed in luxury hotels despite federal standards that limit government employees from purchasing first-class travel. The letter was signed by Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member Paul Tonko (D-NY).

**"To date, your Agency has failed to provide a clear explanation as to whether your travel since becoming Administrator complies with all applicable federal regulations and Agency procedures,"** the Democrats wrote to Administrator Pruitt.

Last week, Administrator Pruitt was spotted flying first-class from Washington to Boston just one day after the Trump Administration proposed slashing EPA's budget by more than 23 percent. Administrator Pruitt has attempted to justify the luxury expense by noting that he has been confronted by people in the airport numerous times, however, it is unclear why this justifies purchasing first-class tickets. These new justifications also contradict previous explanations of this questionable travel as a way of providing the opportunity to hear directly from people affected by EPA.

The Democrats continued, **"It remains unclear how any possible security threats warranted the frequent issuance of waivers authorizing you to fly first-class on domestic flights, or how sitting in a first-class seat is safer than sitting in economy class."**

According to Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III, the retired pilot who once landed a damaged commercial aircraft in the Hudson River and who now serves as a safety and aviation expert for CBS News, "first-class is not safer than economy."

The Democrats are also seeking clarification on multiple conflicting statements from EPA on whether Administrator Pruitt has received a "blanket waiver" allowing him to purchase first-class and business-class tickets, which is illegal under federal travel regulations. An EPA spokesman later retracted the "blanket waiver" claim and instead stated that Administrator Pruitt submits a waiver to fly in either first or business class for every trip.

**"The Agency has similarly offered shifting explanations to date regarding whether or not you have complied with all applicable federal regulations and agency policies and procedures, raising serious questions about the veracity of the information provided by your office,"** the three Democratic Committee leaders continued in their letter.

As part of their inquiry, the Democrats are requesting documents and answers to a series of questions, including:

- Provide a list of all instances to date where Pruitt traveled by air domestically in first or business-class, including the total expense of these tickets.
  - Has the Agency conducted any analysis to indicate enhanced security is achieved by premium travel?
-

- How do interactions with the American public at airports necessitate purchasing first-class plane tickets?
- Was any of Administrator Pruitt's first-class or business-class travel authorized or otherwise approved by the White House?

A copy of the letter is available [HERE](#).

###

---

[democrats-energycommerce.house.gov](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Flickr](#)

Message

---

**From:** Munoz, Charles [munoz.charles@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/15/2018 2:12:41 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Morning WH Update

Great stuff, thank you.

Charles Munoz  
White House Liaison  
Environmental Protection Agency  
202-380-7967

---

**From:** Konkus, John  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:30 AM  
**To:** Munoz, Charles <munoz.charles@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Morning WH Update

Charles: Good morning. Here's today's update.

- Administrator Pruitt will lead a Cabinet-level Meeting on childhood lead exposure.
- EPA Settles with Amazon for Distributions of Illegal Pesticides Agreement Will Help Protect Online Consumers.

Today's Grant Announcements:

- \$991,253.00 to University of Puerto Rico - Med Sciences Campus for Puerto Rico Clean Trucks Project
- \$2.6 Million to Cut Diesel Emissions in New York and New Jersey.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

John Konkus  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Mobile: (202) 365-9250

Message

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** 4/10/2018 3:20:11 PM  
**To:** Press [Press@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: EPA IG review of alleged time and attendance fraud by Samantha Dravis?

Hey everybody, please let me know if you have any thoughts on the below. I can stretch to 12:30 pm EST too for my deadline. Please get back to me before then. Thanks again for your help.

-Kevin

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018 6:55 AM  
**To:** Press@epa.gov; block.molly@epa.gov; abboud.michael@epa.gov; Liz Bowman <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov; daniell.kelsi@epa.gov; John Konkus <konkus.john@epa.gov>; hewitt.james@epa.gov; Jahan Wilcox <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** EPA IG review of alleged time and attendance fraud by Samantha Dravis?

Hey guys,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News again.

I'm working on a story about the EPA Inspector General planning to review alleged time and attendance fraud by Samantha Dravis, according to a letter I obtained. Considering the EPA IG plans to review alleged time and attendance fraud by Dravis, what is EPA's reaction to this new EPA IG review?

Please get back to me to as soon as possible. My deadline is noon EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

-Kevin

Message

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 5/1/2018 6:26:07 PM  
**To:** Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Question from Los Angeles Times

(b) (5)

I don't see the value in responding to insults.

---

**From:** Block, Molly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 1, 2018 2:21 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Question from Los Angeles Times

See below

---

**From:** McGreevy, Patrick [mailto:Patrick.McGreevy@latimes.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 1, 2018 2:16 PM  
**To:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Question from Los Angeles Times

Thank you. What about the name calling by the governor?

---

**From:** Block, Molly [mailto:block.molly@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 11:15 AM  
**To:** McGreevy, Patrick; Press  
**Subject:** RE: Question from Los Angeles Times

"EPA does not comment on pending litigation." - EPA Spokesperson

---

**From:** McGreevy, Patrick [mailto:Patrick.McGreevy@latimes.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 1, 2018 2:14 PM  
**To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Question from Los Angeles Times

I am writing about California and 17 other states filing a lawsuit against USEPA to protect national vehicle emission standards from being rolled back by the federal government.

Can I please get a comment in response to the lawsuit filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which seeks to set aside and hold unlawful the Environmental Protection Agency's effort to "weaken" the existing clean car rules.

The states argue that the EPA acted arbitrarily and capriciously, failed to follow its own regulations and violated the Clean Air Act.

Also, could I please get a comment on California Governor Jerry Brown calling the administrator “Outlaw  
Pruit” over the allegedly illegal change in policy.

I have to file the story by 8 pm East Coast Time.

Thank you

---

Patrick McGreevy,  
Staff Writer.  
Los Angeles Times.  
916-321-4419

Message

---

**From:** Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 4/11/2018 1:49:53 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW: California files suit over repeal of "Once In, Always In" policy

Ok

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:49 AM  
**To:** Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW: California files suit over repeal of "Once In, Always In" policy

Let's check on this one with Bill; we may want to say something

---

**From:** Block, Molly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:45 AM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: California files suit over repeal of "Once In, Always In" policy

**Suggested response:** "EPA does not comment on pending litigation."

---

**From:** Sean Reilly [mailto:sreilly@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 9:44 AM  
**To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** California files suit over repeal of "Once In, Always In" policy

Hi folks: Let me know if you have any comment. Deadline is noon.  
Thanks,  
Sean



## Scott Pruitt Faces New Lawsuit for Illegal Repeal of "Once In, Always In" Rule Restricting Toxic Air Pollution

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 10, 2018

**Contact:** Chris Moyer

**Washington, D.C.**— California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today announced a new lawsuit against Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt for its illegal attempt to repeal the “Once In, Always In” policy that requires major industrial sources of hazardous air pollutants to permanently keep toxics pollution controls in place. Attorney General Becerra is “urging the Court to invalidate EPA’s repeal, because it contravenes the intent of Congress expressed in the Clean Air Act and it constitutes an arbitrary and capricious reversal of the Agency’s position.” The California Air Resources Board joined Attorney General Becerra in filing suit in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

“Instead of prioritizing the health of hardworking Americans, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to let major polluters off the hook. That is unconscionable, and it is illegal,” said **Attorney General Becerra**. “If the ‘Once In, Always In’ policy is rescinded, children in California and around the country – particularly those who must live near the polluting plant or factory – may grow up in an environment with tons of additional hazardous pollutants in the air they breathe. California will not allow that to happen. The EPA must be held accountable.”

“Scott Pruitt will leave behind a thin record of accomplishment because of his inability to follow the law,” said **David J. Hayes, executive director of the State Energy & Environmental Impact Center**. “In addition to working to dismantle rules he doesn’t like, Administrator Pruitt is shirking his core responsibility to enforce our environmental laws. Attempting to rescind the ‘Once In, Always In’ enforcement policy under the Clean Air Act is particularly reprehensible because it would enable companies to lift controls and increase emissions of toxic substances from petroleum refineries and chemical plants, endangering the health of the most vulnerable residents who live nearby.”

## **BACKGROUND**

A February 2018 State Energy & Environmental Impact Center report, “State Attorneys General: 13 Months of Critical Actions,” shows that state attorneys general have taken more than 80 actions to advance and defend progressive clean energy, climate and environmental laws and policies since January 2017.

**ABOUT THE STATE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CENTER:** The State Energy & Environmental Impact Center is a non-partisan Center at the NYU School of Law that is dedicated to helping state attorneys general fight against regulatory rollbacks and advance clean energy, climate change, and environmental values and protections. It was launched in August 2017 with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies. For more information, visit <http://www.law.nyu.edu/centers/state-impact>.

###



Message

---

**From:** Rich Innes [richinnes@merid.org]  
**Sent:** 1/5/2018 2:56:26 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** John lunch with Rich Innes, Jan. 17?  
**Attachments:** ANEP 2017 House final.pdf

Hi John,

The holidays got away from us, but hoping you can take a few moments to catch up on a couple of issues.

Would Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup> work on your schedule? Could either do a late lunch, or stop by about 2 or 2:30 PM? Regarding lunch, if you haven't been recently to the Tadich Grill it is excellent:

<http://www.tadichgrill.com/location-dc.php>

A short walk from your office.

I would like to get your advice and guidance on two issues: Environmental Education at the Agency, and also the National Estuary Programs:

- EE: I understand the Diane Wood and crew recently had a very productive meeting with Tate Bennet and also Tom Brennan from your shop. Would appreciate your thoughts on how to navigate the future of this program, which is a good one (non-regulatory, can put the Agency's best foot forward, etc.).
- National Estuary Program: I had an excellent meeting recently with Lee Forsgren at OW. I was able to bring him up to speed on the program, but he was already very familiar with the NEP and its many strengths. He is very much aware of the bi-partisan support for the program (see attached approps letter led by Rep Lobiondo with some good R signatures, including Zeldin, King, Smith, etc.) I have been the executive director of the Association of National Estuary Programs for the past decade, and can fill you in on its history, including the reauthorization in the last Congress.

I hope this date works for, John, and if not we can find another time, maybe Jan, 24<sup>th</sup>? Will be great to catch up.

Rich Innes  
Senior Fellow, Meridian Institute  
1800 M Street NW, Suite 400 N  
Washington, DC 20036 United States  
+1.202.236-7171 mobile  
[www.merid.org](http://www.merid.org)



**Meridian Institute**  
Connecting People to Solve Problems

---

**From:** Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** Diane Wood <DWood@neefusa.org>; Rich Innes <richinnes@merid.org>  
**Cc:** Brennan, Thomas <Brennan.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Rich Innes

Rich: Let's grab a coffee sometime this week or next before Christmas!

John

---

**From:** Diane Wood [mailto:DWood@neefusa.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:40 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Rich Innes (Richinnes@merid.org) <Richinnes@merid.org>  
**Cc:** Brennan, Thomas <Brennan.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Rich Innes

Here you go! Rich's e-mail connected.

Diane

---

**From:** Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** Diane Wood <DWood@neefusa.org>  
**Cc:** Brennan, Thomas <Brennan.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Rich Innes

Yes! I know Rich and would very much welcome the opportunity to reconnect with him.

John Konkus  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Mobile: (202) 365-9250

---

**From:** Diane Wood [mailto:DWood@neefusa.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:34 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Brennan, Thomas <Brennan.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Rich Innes

Hello John

Not sure if Tom has already made the connection, but Rich Innes, former Chafee EPW staffer is part of the NEEF team. I think you may know each other.

Cheers, Diane



Diane Wood  
President

National Environmental Education Foundation  
4301 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 160

Washington, DC 20008

Direct 202-261-6476  
General 202-833-2933  
Fax 202-261-6464  
**NEEFusa.org**

---

[Spam](#)

[Phish/Fraud](#)

[Not spam](#)

[Forget previous vote](#)

Message

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2018 11:27:45 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Press [Press@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: John Konkus' outside clients

Many thanks, Liz. Really appreciate it. I use the below from you on the record as an EPA spokeswoman in my story. Thanks again.

*"As the EPA Ethics Officer indicated, John followed the law, and furthermore never did any outside work," said EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman.*

-Kevin

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 7:25 PM  
**To:** Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net>  
**Cc:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: John Konkus' outside clients

Hi Kevin - As the EPA Ethics Officer indicated, John followed the law, and furthermore never did any outside work."

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2018, at 6:35 PM, Kevin Bogardus <kbogardus@eenews.net> wrote:

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. My apologies for the evening email.

Myself and a colleague are working on a story about John Konkus' likely outside clients, which I understand he never performed any work for while he has been an EPA official.

I won a Freedom of Information Act appeal and received a unredacted copy of John's approval of outside activity form, which lists his two likely clients as Jamestown Associates and a Florida state representative (please see attached). I have also obtained John's latest financial disclosure report (please see attached) as well as an email between John and Justina Fugh (please see below), both saying John never did any work for either client, which I will mention in my story. In addition, for your information, I will mention in my story John's firm, Saint Luke Solutions LLC, which is mentioned on John's approval of outside activity form and I will cite Florida state records (<http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/GetDocument?aggregateId=flal-l15000061676-d7af5131-56c2-4e6b-805b-ea304b730c9e&transactionId=l15000061676-b7c819c8-fe16-466a-b64a-ff343fa177e2&formatType=PDF>).

I have a few questions for you, which are:

- Who was the Florida state representative that was one of John's likely clients?

- Does EPA have any other reaction on John's likely outside clients?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is midnight tonight but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

**Kevin Bogardus**

E&E News reporter

[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)

202-446-0401 (p)

202-247-7844 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me [@KevinBogardus](https://twitter.com/KevinBogardus)

---

**E&E NEWS**

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) • [www.eenews.tv](http://www.eenews.tv)

EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

P.S. – Here is the email between John and Justina Fugh:

**From:** Fugh, Justina

**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:09 AM

**To:** Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Hi John,

This note confirms our conversation earlier today. As always, I appreciate your taking the initiative to consult with me about any possible ethical issues in advance and sharing your relevant details. You're a good client!

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT**

You indicated that you intend to file your incumbent report this week, and I told you that I would review it as soon as possible. Your report will not include any income from any outside clients because, as we discussed today, you never did engage in any outside activity for any clients in CY 2017. As you will recall, you had sought approval *in advance* of any possible activity, as required by 5 CFR 2635.803 and 5 CFR 6401.103(a). I approved you for the *possibility* of outside activity, but given the demands of your EPA duties, you never took on any clients at all. What you will be reporting in your OGE 278 is that fact that you never had any clients after all, so have nothing to enter as additional income or outside positions on your financial disclosure report.

**OUTSIDE ACTIVITY**

You informed me that you simply do not have any time or inclination to consider any outside activity in the future. Thus, this note confirms that you no longer need the prior approval of outside activity. We will consider that approval to be rescinded since it's unnecessary.

As always, thanks for stopping by!

Cheers,

Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308 North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004 for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772

<KonkusJ annual report.pdf>

<Konkus approval of outside activity\_unredacted.pdf>

Message

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/28/2018 3:58:15 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: can you send me the 'ban on secret science' press release?

Nice, thanks

On Mar 28, 2018, at 11:36 AM, Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)> wrote:

<image1.jpeg>

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2018, at 10:46 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)> wrote:

John –

Can we get two additional banners created with one that replaces “News Release” to “In Case You Missed It” and another that replaces “News Release” to “Weekly Round-Up.”

**From:** Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2018 10:38 AM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: can you send me the 'ban on secret science' press release?

Thanks both.

I'm a little confused -- is this then just sending around a positive article? Because it has 'news release' on top. Perhaps I'm thrown off by the first line: 'The Environmental Protection Agency has announced...' That's their editorial and not your announcement?

Basically my question is: is the EPA policy out today? Did something official happen?

Tx again,  
Lisa

---

THE OKLAHOMAN

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ban On "Secret Science" In EPA Regulation Makes Sense**

Editorial

March 26, 2018

<http://newsok.com/article/5588210/ban-on-secret-science-in-epa-regulation-sense>

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced it will now base new regulations only on the findings of scientific studies whose data and methodology are made public so they can be subjected to independent review. That's a sound move in line with



scientific transparency and professionalism.

Yet it's being treated as a sign of impending apocalypse by some on the left, with much about the questionable validity of that group's policy prescriptions.

In an interview with The Daily Caller News Foundation, Administrator Scott Pruitt said the EPA will end its use of studies that do not publish underlying data, only conclusions. “Otherwise, it’s not transparent. It’s not objectively measured, and that’s important,” Pruitt said.

In the past, the EPA has advanced air-quality regulations that imposed massive costs based primarily on the findings of two studies done in the 1990s that linked fine particulate pollution to premature death. Neither study made associated data

U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas and chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, has long criticized the use of “secret science” and authored legislation to curtail its use by regulators. Last year, Smith said the EPA had “relied on questionable science based on nonpublic information that could not be reproduced, a basic requirement of the scientific method.”

“Americans deserve to see the science for themselves,” Smith said. “If the EPA has nothing to hide, why not make the scientific data it uses for its regulations publicly available? What was the EPA hiding?”

That will strike most people as a fair question. But to some activists, the idea that science should involve review and scrutiny is apparently anathema. In response to a prior effort to ban “secret science” at the EPA, Andrew Rosenberg, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists' Center for Science and Democracy, said transparency would “gut the EPA at the expense of public health and safety.”

That same group has claimed release of data would require publicizing the confidential data of individuals. But Steve Milloy, publisher of [JunkScience.com](http://JunkScience.com) and a fellow at the Energy and Environmental Legal Institute, notes that California already makes similar data available in its “Public Use Death Files,” and that has been accomplished without violating patient privacy.

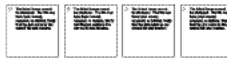
Other critics object that there are costs involved in scrubbing data sets so that patient privacy is protected. Perhaps, but that doesn't mean the public should be kept in the dark about the data and methods used to justify literally billions in new regulations and the burden.

Scientific studies are as susceptible to human error and even outright fraud as any other endeavor — particularly when such studies are used in the political realm. Facing transparency and independent review will reduce the chances of bad science harming Americans with half-baked regulations, and should enhance the case for regula

when the underlying science has withstood independent scrutiny.

Given the stakes for public health and the national economy, Americans must be assured government regulations are based on sound science, not someone's "trassurances."

<image002.png>



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20004

[Unsubscribe](#)

On Wed, Mar 28, 2018 at 10:34 AM, Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)> wrote:

Here is our statement: "Administrator Pruitt believes that Americans deserve transparency, with regard to the science and data that's underpinning regulatory decisions being made by this Agency." – EPA spokesperson Liz Bowman

We did an ICYMI from the Daily Caller, Oklahoman and WSJ.

**From:** Friedman, Lisa [<mailto:lisa.friedman@nytimes.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2018 10:31 AM

**To:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** can you send me the 'ban on secret science' press release?

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

--

Lisa Friedman

Reporter, New York Times

(202) 862-0306 office

(202) 251-2083 cell

Message

---

**From:** Kevin Bogardus [kbogardus@eenews.net]  
**Sent:** 4/10/2018 10:54:36 AM  
**To:** Press [Press@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** EPA IG review of alleged time and attendance fraud by Samantha Dravis?  
**Attachments:** Interim\_Response\_04-09-2018.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Hey guys,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News again.

I'm working on a story about the EPA Inspector General planning to review alleged time and attendance fraud by Samantha Dravis, according to a letter I obtained. Considering the EPA IG plans to review alleged time and attendance fraud by Dravis, what is EPA's reaction to this new EPA IG review?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is noon EST today but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

-Kevin



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 09 2018

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Carper:

You wrote to us on March 28, 2018, to request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conduct an immediate review of the EPA's oversight of its employee time and attendance practices. You specifically noted allegations that Ms. Samantha Dravis, Associate Administrator of the EPA's Office of Policy, did not work for much of November 2017 through January 2018 but was still compensated as a full-time employee. You asked that we review the allegations and any related systematic problems to ensure that the EPA has adhered to the corrective actions implemented subsequent to the criminal fraud committed by John Beale to ensure that it did not happen again. While Ms. Dravis has subsequently announced that she is leaving the EPA, the issues you raise would not be answered by her departure. After analyzing your request, we have decided to conduct the requested review.

As I have noted in previous letters to Congress, in determining whether the OIG can undertake requested work, initially we have to find that the matter is within our jurisdiction. But, beyond that threshold question, we have to determine whether we have sufficient resources—people, time and funds—to do a project in a timely fashion and whether it would preclude our doing other crucial work. The OIG has been funded at less than the levels we deem adequate to do all of the work that should be done, and we therefore have to make difficult decisions about whether to accept any given potential undertaking. Many of our projects are statutorily mandated work, with Congress adding new mandates each session. Further, our annual work plan, which is also statutorily mandated, uses a risk-based analysis that identifies dozens of additional high-impact projects. All of this means that for every discretionary review the OIG decides to undertake there will be others we cannot.

However, despite these constraints, we have determined that the issues raised in your letter are within the authority of the OIG to review and we will do so. We will inform you and your staff when we complete the review.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the OIG. If you have any questions about this or any other matter, please contact Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General, at (202) 566-2391.

Sincerely,



Arthur A. Elkins Jr.

Message

---

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 2/14/2018 9:12:36 PM  
**To:** Wade, James [Wade.James@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Orquina, Jessica [Orquina.Jessica@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: JOHN/JAMES REVIEW: Draft FaceTweets for OECA/R10 settlement

Good to go.

---

**From:** Wade, James  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 1:26 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Orquina, Jessica <Orquina.Jessica@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** JOHN/JAMES REVIEW: Draft FaceTweets for OECA/R10 settlement

Good afternoon,

Here are a draft Tweet and Facebook post for the main accounts for a case that OECA is on track to announce with a press release as early as tomorrow. This language is taken verbatim from their press release (text is below as a reference).

Twitter:

EPA settles with Amazon for distributions of illegal pesticides. (link to release goes here)

Facebook:

Today we announced an agreement with Amazon Services LLC to protect the public from the hazards posed by unregistered and misbranded pesticide products. The agreement settles allegations that Amazon committed nearly four thousand violations of the "Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act" (FIFRA) – dating back to 2013 – for selling and distributing imported pesticide products that were not licensed for sale in the United States. (link to release goes here)

Press release language:

**EPA Settles with Amazon for Distributions of Illegal Pesticides**  
*Agreement Will Help Protect Online Consumers*

**Seattle, Wash.** (February 14, 2018) – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an agreement with Amazon Services LLC to protect the public from the hazards posed by unregistered and misbranded pesticide products. The agreement settles allegations that Amazon committed nearly four thousand violations of the "Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act" (FIFRA) – dating back to 2013 – for selling and distributing imported pesticide products that were not licensed for sale in the United States.

"This agreement will dramatically reduce the online sale of illegal pesticides, which pose serious threats to public health in communities across America," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "Amazon is committed to closely monitoring and removing illegal pesticides from its website, and EPA will continue to work hard to ensure these harmful products never reach the marketplace."

Under the terms of today's agreement, Amazon will develop an online training course on pesticide regulations and policies that EPA believes will significantly reduce the number of illegal pesticides available through the online marketplace. The training will be available to the public and online marketers in English, Spanish and

Chinese. Successful completion of the training will be mandatory for all entities planning to sell pesticides on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Amazon will also pay an administrative penalty of \$1,215,700 as part of the consent agreement and final order entered into by Amazon and EPA's Region 10 office in Seattle, Washington.

In late 2014, EPA began investigating online pesticide product distributions and sales through several internet retail sites including Amazon and third-party sellers that used Amazon's online marketing platform. In March 2015, EPA inspected an Amazon facility in Lexington, Kentucky, and inspectors in EPA's Region 10 office successfully ordered illegal pesticides from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). In August 2015, EPA issued a FIFRA Stop Sale, Use, or Removal Order against Amazon to prohibit the sale of the illegal pesticide products that can easily be mistaken for black-board or side-walk chalk, especially by children.

EPA issued another Stop Sale Order against Amazon in January 2016 after discovering that certain unregistered or misbranded insecticide bait products were being offered for sale on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). After receiving the stop sale orders, Amazon immediately removed the products from the marketplace, prohibited foreign sellers from selling pesticides, and cooperated with EPA during its subsequent investigation. The Orders, as well as EPA's subsequent engagement with the company, prompted Amazon to more aggressively monitor its website for illegal pesticides. As a result, Amazon has created a robust compliance program comprised of a sophisticated computer-based screening system backed-up by numerous, trained staff.

In October 2016, Amazon notified all customers who purchased the illegal pesticides between 2013 and 2016 to communicate safety concerns with these products and urge disposal. Amazon also refunded those customers the cost of the products, approximately \$130,000.

Non-English speaking members of the public are at increased risk from these pesticides that are illegal in the U.S. but have long been used throughout Asia. These populations' familiarity with these products make it more likely they will order them from online sources such as Amazon. By removing such products from Amazon's online platform and by educating third party sellers on the hazards of these unregistered and misbranded pesticide products, this agreement will decrease the availability of these unsafe products and protect these vulnerable groups.

For more information on this settlement or to read a copy of the consent agreement and final order, go to **(EPA web link goes here)**.

Sent from my iPhone

Message

---

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 3/27/2018 8:39:15 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Sending this to Tim.

Just another fundraising campaign.

On Mar 27, 2018, at 4:38 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

**BACKGROUND ...**

<https://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2016/12/sierra-club-scott-pruitt-unfit-serve-epa-administrator>

**From:** Timothy Cama [mailto:tcama@thehill.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2018 4:27 PM  
**To:** Press <Press@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Anti-Pruitt campaign

Hi folks-

A handful of environmental groups is launching a campaign soon to try to get Pruitt to either resign or be fired, dubbed "Boot Pruitt."

Their main arguments are the changes or rollbacks he's made to the Clean Power Plan, Clean Water Rule, methane rule, Paris agreement and his travel costs.

Would you like to comment?

Thanks.

--

Timothy Cama, Staff writer  
The Hill  
(202) 695-6245  
Secure: [timothy.cama@protonmail.com](mailto:timothy.cama@protonmail.com)



Message

---

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 4/23/2018 1:31:00 PM  
**To:** White, Elizabeth [white.elizabeth@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: confirmation of our conversation earlier today

For the file when it's released.

---

**From:** Fugh, Justina  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:09 AM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Hi John,

This note confirms our conversation earlier today. As always, I appreciate your taking the initiative to consult with me about any possible ethical issues in advance and sharing your relevant details. You're a good client!

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

You indicated that you intend to file your incumbent report this week, and I told you that I would review it as soon as possible. Your report will not include any income from any outside clients because, as we discussed today, you never did engage in any outside activity for any clients in CY 2017. As you will recall, you had sought approval *in advance* of any possible activity, as required by 5 CFR 2635.803 and 5 CFR 6401.103(a). I approved you for the *possibility* of outside activity, but given the demands of your EPA duties, you never took on any clients at all. What you will be reporting in your OGE 278 is that fact that you never had any clients after all, so have nothing to enter as additional income or outside positions on your financial disclosure report.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

You informed me that you simply do not have any time or inclination to consider any outside activity in the future. Thus, this note confirms that you no longer need the prior approval of outside activity. We will consider that approval to be rescinded since it's unnecessary.

As always, thanks for stopping by!

Cheers,

Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308 North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004 for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772

Message

---

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 1/26/2018 6:24:11 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

I will do that. We should also seriously look at giving the regional comms teams media training on how to deal with a combative press. Now that their officers are being run by President Trump folks, the press is going to do this crap all the time.

---

**From:** Bowman, Liz  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 1:21 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

Please feel like you can call Jeff directly and talk with him about the response, and ask him to update his quote and call the outlet and tell them to update it (jeff call them).

---

**From:** Konkus, John  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 1:08 PM  
**To:** Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

We need direct regions to do a better job of defending and pushing back against this kind of BS "journalism" this is not a good response: *EPA spokesman **Jeff Kelley** declined to answer any questions about the incident on behalf of Cathy Stepp. "I wouldn't characterize it as cheating," he said.*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chicago-inc/ct-met-epa-cathy-stepp-0125-chicago-inc-20180125-story.html>

---

**From:** regionalpress  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 12:44 PM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

---

**From:** Grantham, Nancy  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 5:43:52 PM (UTC+00:00) Monrovia, Reykjavik  
**To:** Kelley, Jeff; Bowman, Liz  
**Cc:** regionalpress; Rowan, Anne  
**Subject:** Liz - for approval Re: Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

See Cathy quote below - AP now covering - are you ok with it going? Thx ng

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 26, 2018, at 11:38 AM, Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov> wrote:

Cathy would like to respond ... could you give me a call?

(b) (5)

---

**Jeff Kelley**

Director, Office of External Communications  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
ph: 312-353-1159

---

**From:** Bassler, Rachel  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 10:05 AM  
**To:** regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Associated Press - Cathy Stepp Questions. DDL Immediate

We received the following inquiry from the AP in Madison, Wisc. Jeff is consulting with Cathy and Ed.

---

**From:** Richmond, Todd [mailto:TRichmond@ap.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2018 10:01 AM  
**To:** Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Lippert, Allison <lippert.allison@epa.gov>; Singer, Joshua <Singer.Joshua@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Associated Press inquiry

Hello. My name is Todd Richmond. I'm a reporter with The Associated Press in Madison, Wisconsin. I'm working on a story following up on a piece in the Chicago Tribune about how Administrator Cathy Stepp apparently followed Wisconsin driving examiners around while wearing a fake nose disguise to see how driving tests works.  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chicago/ct-met-epa-cathy-stepp-0125-chicago-inc-20180125-story.html>

I was wondering if it's possible to speak briefly with Ms. Stepp by phone today to confirm the story and see if she has any reaction to it. In lieu of an interview, can anyone on your staff answer the following questions:

\_Where and when did Hannah Stepp tell this story? Was it indeed at an introductory meeting for all 200 regional EPA employees?  
\_Was it ethical for Cathy Stepp to tail driver examiners to get a better understanding of the test for her daughter?  
\_Does she carry a fake nose around with her, as the Tribune story suggests?

My deadline is immediate. Any help would be appreciated. Thank you.



Todd Richmond  
Associated Press  
608-255-3679 (o)  
608-658-1120 (cell)

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

Message

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2018 11:00:09 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: John Konkus' outside clients

Minus Kevin, minus press. Here is a suggested quote if someone is willing to submit it back to Kevin, any other ideas are welcome: (b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2018, at 6:35 PM, Kevin Bogardus <[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)> wrote:

Hey everyone,

It's Kevin Bogardus with E&E News. My apologies for the evening email.

Myself and a colleague are working on a story about John Konkus' likely outside clients, which I understand he never performed any work for while he has been an EPA official.

I won a Freedom of Information Act appeal and received a unredacted copy of John's approval of outside activity form, which lists his two likely clients as Jamestown Associates and a Florida state representative (please see attached). I have also obtained John's latest financial disclosure report (please see attached) as well as an email between John and Justina Fugh (please see below), both saying John never did any work for either client, which I will mention in my story. In addition, for your information, I will mention in my story John's firm, Saint Luke Solutions LLC, which is mentioned on John's approval of outside activity form and I will cite Florida state records (<http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/GetDocument?aggregateId=flal-115000061676-d7af5131-56c2-4e6b-805b-ea304b730c9e&transactionId=115000061676-b7c819c8-fe16-466a-b64a-ff343fa177e2&formatType=PDF>).

I have a few questions for you, which are:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Who was the Florida state representative that was one of John's likely clients?
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><!--[endif]-->Does EPA have any other reaction on John's likely outside clients?

Please get back to me as soon as possible. My deadline is midnight tonight but the sooner you get back to me, the more it helps my reporting. Thank you for your help.

**Kevin Bogardus**  
E&E News reporter  
[kbogardus@eenews.net](mailto:kbogardus@eenews.net)  
202-446-0401 (p)  
202-247-7844 (c)

202-737-5299 (f)

Follow me @KevinBogardus

---

**E&E NEWS**

122 C Street, NW, Suite 722, Washington, DC 20001

[www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) • [www.eenews.tv](http://www.eenews.tv)

EnergyWire, ClimateWire, E&E Daily, Greenwire, E&ENews PM

P.S. – Here is the email between John and Justina Fugh:

**From:** Fugh, Justina

**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:09 AM

**To:** Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Hi John,

This note confirms our conversation earlier today. As always, I appreciate your taking the initiative to consult with me about any possible ethical issues in advance and sharing your relevant details. You're a good client!

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

You indicated that you intend to file your incumbent report this week, and I told you that I would review it as soon as possible. Your report will not include any income from any outside clients because, as we discussed today, you never did engage in any outside activity for any clients in CY 2017. As you will recall, you had sought approval *in advance of* any possible activity, as required by 5 CFR 2635.803 and 5 CFR 6401.103(a). I approved you for the *possibility* of outside activity, but given the demands of your EPA duties, you never took on any clients at all. What you will be reporting in your OGE 278 is that fact that you never had any clients after all, so have nothing to enter as additional income or outside positions on your financial disclosure report.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

You informed me that you simply do not have any time or inclination to consider any outside activity in the future. Thus, this note confirms that you no longer need the prior approval of outside activity. We will consider that approval to be rescinded since it's unnecessary.

As always, thanks for stopping by!

Cheers,

Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308  
North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004  
for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772

<KonkusJ annual report.pdf>

<Konkus approval of outside activity\_unredacted.pdf>

Message

---

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2018 4:50:43 PM  
**To:** Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fwd: confirmation of our conversation earlier today  
**Attachments:** KonkusJ annual report.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Please feel free to reference my attached financial disclosure which was certified this morning. As it shows and the below email indicates, although I was granted approval for outside employment, I have not held any outside employment or taken any outside income while serving at EPA.

---

**From:** Fugh, Justina  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:09 AM  
**To:** Konkus, John <[konkus.john@epa.gov](mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Hi John,

This note confirms our conversation earlier today. As always, I appreciate your taking the initiative to consult with me about any possible ethical issues in advance and sharing your relevant details. You're a good client!

#### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

You indicated that you intend to file your incumbent report this week, and I told you that I would review it as soon as possible. Your report will not include any income from any outside clients because, as we discussed today, you never did engage in any outside activity for any clients in CY 2017. As you will recall, you had sought approval *in advance of* any possible activity, as required by 5 CFR 2635.803 and 5 CFR 6401.103(a). I approved you for the *possibility* of outside activity, but given the demands of your EPA duties, you never took on any clients at all. What you will be reporting in your OGE 278 is that fact that you never had any clients after all, so have nothing to enter as additional income or outside positions on your financial disclosure report.

#### OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

You informed me that you simply do not have any time or inclination to consider any outside activity in the future. Thus, this note confirms that you no longer need the prior approval of outside activity. We will consider that approval to be rescinded since it's unnecessary.



As always, thanks for stopping by!

Cheers,

Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308  
North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004  
for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772

Message

---

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 4/26/2018 4:41:53 PM  
**To:** Lyons, Troy [lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Ringel, Aaron [ringel.aaron@epa.gov]  
**BCC:** Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: confirmation of our conversation earlier today  
**Attachments:** KonkusJ annual report.pdf

If he gets any more questions please feel free to reference my attached financial disclosure which was certified this morning. As it shows and the below email indicates, although I was granted approval for outside employment, I have not held any outside employment or taken any outside income while serving at EPA.

---

**From:** Fugh, Justina  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:09 AM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Hi John,

This note confirms our conversation earlier today. As always, I appreciate your taking the initiative to consult with me about any possible ethical issues in advance and sharing your relevant details. You're a good client!

#### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

You indicated that you intend to file your incumbent report this week, and I told you that I would review it as soon as possible. Your report will not include any income from any outside clients because, as we discussed today, you never did engage in any outside activity for any clients in CY 2017. As you will recall, you had sought approval *in advance* of any possible activity, as required by 5 CFR 2635.803 and 5 CFR 6401.103(a). I approved you for the *possibility* of outside activity, but given the demands of your EPA duties, you never took on any clients at all. What you will be reporting in your OGE 278 is that fact that you never had any clients after all, so have nothing to enter as additional income or outside positions on your financial disclosure report.

#### OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

You informed me that you simply do not have any time or inclination to consider any outside activity in the future. Thus, this note confirms that you no longer need the prior approval of outside activity. We will consider that approval to be rescinded since it's unnecessary.

As always, thanks for stopping by!

Cheers,  
Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308 North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004 for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772

Message

---

**From:** Konkus, John [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=555471B2BAA6419E8E141696F4577062-KONKUS, JOH]  
**Sent:** 4/20/2018 4:52:03 PM  
**To:** Fugh, Justina [Fugh.Justina@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Thank you Justina. I just completed and submitted my report. Have a nice weekend.

---

**From:** Fugh, Justina  
**Sent:** Friday, April 20, 2018 11:09 AM  
**To:** Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** confirmation of our conversation earlier today

Hi John,

This note confirms our conversation earlier today. As always, I appreciate your taking the initiative to consult with me about any possible ethical issues in advance and sharing your relevant details. You're a good client!

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT

You indicated that you intend to file your incumbent report this week, and I told you that I would review it as soon as possible. Your report will not include any income from any outside clients because, as we discussed today, you never did engage in any outside activity for any clients in CY 2017. As you will recall, you had sought approval *in advance* of any possible activity, as required by 5 CFR 2635.803 and 5 CFR 6401.103(a). I approved you for the *possibility* of outside activity, but given the demands of your EPA duties, you never took on any clients at all. What you will be reporting in your OGE 278 is that fact that you never had any clients after all, so have nothing to enter as additional income or outside positions on your financial disclosure report.

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY

You informed me that you simply do not have any time or inclination to consider any outside activity in the future. Thus, this note confirms that you no longer need the prior approval of outside activity. We will consider that approval to be rescinded since it's unnecessary.

As always, thanks for stopping by!

Cheers,

Justina

Justina Fugh | Senior Counsel for Ethics | Office of General Counsel | US EPA | Mail Code 2311A | Room 4308 North, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building | Washington, DC 20460 (for ground deliveries, use 20004 for the zip code) | phone 202-564-1786 | fax 202-564-1772